NATION

Veteran actor Kamini Kaushal dies at 98

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BUSINESS

India's data privacy law comes into effect after 2 years

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SPORTS

Bumrah blows SA with a stunning five-wicket haul

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DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

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With 200 'paar', NDA wave drowns RJD, Cong in Bihar

»BJP, JD(U) bag 89 & 85 seats each » In its worst show, Cong wins just 6 » PK's JSP falls flat » AIMIM springs a surprise

NEW DELHI/ PATNA 14 NOV

The ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) decimated the Mahagathbandhan in Bihar on Friday, retaining power with a sweeping mandate that reaffirmed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popularity and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's enduring appeal. The victory delivered a heavy blow to Congress and its ally, RJD.

The scale of the win was underscored by the NDA's two principal partners, BJP and JD(U), each poised for a strike rate of over 85 per cent in the 101 seats they contested. By 11.30pm, the alliance looked set to cross the "200 paar" mark for a three-fourth majority, with BJP emerging as the single largest party.

"The people of Bihar, with this massive victory and their unshakable confidence, have taken the state by storm," Modi told cheering workers at the BJP headquarters in Delhi, waving a gamcha.

BJP won 89 seats, up from 74 in 2020, while Nitish Kumar's JD(U) secured 84, nearly doubling its previous tally of 43. majority mark in the 243-member Assembly is 122.

Union minister Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) or LJP(RV) emerged as the fourth largest party, and the third-largest within the NDA, winning 19 seats. This has triggered speculation over whether Chirag may seek the deputy chief minister's post, especially with Kumar set to assume the top office for the ninth time. Asked earlier in the week whether he would stake claim, Chirag had said his party would do so if the NDA secured a decisive mandate.

In contrast, RJD plunged to 25 seats from 75, while Congress managed only six of the 61 constituencies it contested, down from 19.

Overcoming anti-incumbency, Kumar thanked voters for the "landslide" mandate, crediting welfare schemes, especially women-centred initiatives such as the Rs 10,000 direct aid under the Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana, as key drivers. An extraordinary turnout of women voters, the NDA's wider caste coalition, support from EBC households, and appeals around "double-engine" governance also strengthened the alliance. NDA appeared to have performed strongly even in Muslim-dominated seats.

Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraaj Party, projected as the election's 'X-factor', failed to make an impact.

Kumar, contesting for a record ninth term as chief minister, had aggressively expanded welfare schemes and remains the longest-serving holder of the post.

Among NDA partners, LJP(RV) won 18 seats, while HAM and RLM secured five and four respectively.

The Mahagathbandhan suffered losses even in its strongholds, with the traditional Muslim-Yadav vote weakening. Although Tejashwi Yadav eventually retained Raghopur, the alliance faced an overwhelming rejection. AIMIM, often accused of aiding the BJP, won five of the 32 seats it contested. —*PTI*

>>>More on Pages 2, 3 & 4

JD(U) members celebrate and feed sweets to Nitish Kumar in Patna, while PM Narendra Modi waves a 'gamcha' during NDA's victory celebrations at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi on Friday, as the alliance surged ahead in the Bihar Assembly vote count ***PHOTO: PTI***

"The river Ganga flows to Bengal via Bihar. And the victory in Bihar, like the river, has paved the way for our victory in Bengal"

-Narendra Modi, PM

"This fight is for the protection of the Constitution and democracy. Congress and INDIA bloc will conduct an in-depth review of this result and make more effective efforts to save democracy"

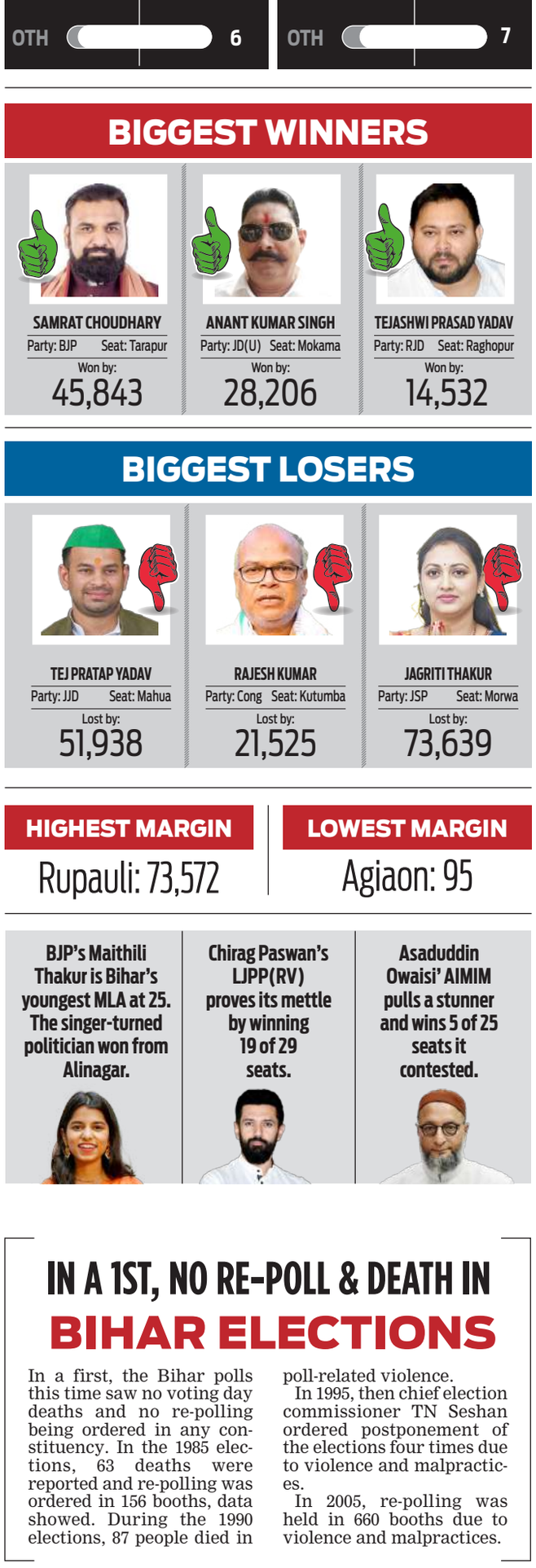
-Rahul Gandhi, Cong leader

"The mandate has been given by the people. It is a lesson to us. I think in the future we will work out a new strategy for the Congress party and the INDIA bloc"

-DK Shivakumar, Karnataka DyCM

"Bihar polls mark the best-ever performance by EC"

-Gyanesh Kumar, Chief Election Commissioner



BIGGEST WINNERS

SAMRAT CHOUDHARY	ANANT KUMAR SINGH	TEJASHWI PRASAD YADAV
Party: BJP Seat: Tarapur	Party: JD(U) Seat: Mokama	Party: RJD Seat: Raghopur
Won by: 45,843	Won by: 28,206	Won by: 14,532

BIGGEST LOSERS

TEJ PRATAP YADAV	RAJESH KUMAR	JAGRITI THAKUR
Party: JJD Seat: Mahua	Party: Cong Seat: Kutumba	Party: JSP Seat: Morwa
Lost by: 51,938	Lost by: 21,525	Lost by: 73,639

HIGHEST MARGIN
Rupauli: 73,572

LOWEST MARGIN
Agiaon: 95

BJP's Maithili Thakur is Bihar's youngest MLA at 25. The singer-turned politician won from Alinagar.

Chirag Paswan's LJPP(RV) proves its mettle by winning 19 of 29 seats.

Asaduddin Owaisi' AIMIM pulls a stunner and wins 5 of 25 seats it contested.

IN A 1ST, NO RE-POLL & DEATH IN BIHAR ELECTIONS

In a first, the Bihar polls this time saw no voting day deaths and no re-polling being ordered in any constituency. In the 1985 elections, 63 deaths were reported and re-polling was ordered in 156 booths, data showed. During the 1990 elections, 87 people died in poll-related violence.

In 1995, then chief election commissioner TN Seshan ordered postponement of the elections four times due to violence and malpractices.

In 2005, re-polling was held in 660 booths due to violence and malpractices.

Veteran Tamil film director V Sekhar dies at 72

CHENNAI, 14 NOV

Veteran film director V Sekhar died at a hospital here on Friday, sources said. The 72-year-old film maker was not keeping well for sometime and breathed his last on Friday evening, they said. Sekhar is known for several popular family entertainers in 1990s, including 'Varavu Ettana, Selavu Pathana', 'Kalam Mari Pochu' 'Viraluku Etha Veekam', 'Onna Iruka Kathukanum'. Veteran film journalist Sreedhar Pillai remembered V Sekhar as a leading director of the 1990s known for his middle class family entertainers laced with comedy.— *PTI*

IAF trainer aircraft crashes near Chennai

CHENNAI, 14 NOV

An Indian Air Force aircraft which was on a routine training mission crashed near Tambaram here on Friday afternoon, officials said. The pilot ejected safely and no damage to civil property has been reported, the IAF said. "An Indian Air Force PC-7 Mk II trainer aircraft met with an accident during a routine training mission and crashed at about 14.25 hr near Tambaram, Chennai, today.", the IAF said in a social media post. Earlier, an official told PTI that the incident occurred around 2 pm. "A Court of Inquiry has been constituted to ascertain the cause of accident," the IAF said. — *PTI*

Ruling parties lose ground in bypolls; Congress wins Jubilee Hills

NEW DELHI, 14 NOV

Ruling parties on Friday lost four of the eight seats contested in the 11 November assembly bypolls, with the Congress securing the high-profile Jubilee Hills seat in Telangana. Congress candidate V. Naveen Yadav defeated his nearest BRS rival Maganti Sunitha by 24,729 votes. The bypoll was held following the death of BRS MLA Maganti Gopinath in June.

AAP retained Tarn Taran seat in Punjab, where Harmeet Singh Sandhu beat SAD candidate Sukhwinder Kaur Randhawa by 12,091 votes.

BJP added two wins. In Odisha's Nuapada, its candidate Jay Dholakia, son of late BJD MLA Rajendra Dholakia, defeated Congress nominee Ghasi Ram Majhi by a massive 83,748-vote margin. In Nagrota, BJP's Devyani Rana defeated JKNPP's Harsh Dev Singh by 24,647 votes. The bypoll was necessitated by the death of Devyani Rana's father, former MLA Devender Singh Rana. AAP and JMM also secured one seat each as the bypoll results signalled mixed fortunes across states. —*PTI*

>>>More on Page 4

SHE PLANTED CHANGE

114-yr-old 'Mother of Trees' Thimmakka dies in B'luru

BENGALURU, 14 NOV

Padma Shri awardee and environmentalist 'Saalumarada' Thimmakka died at a private hospital here on Friday.

The 114-year-old was ailing for quite some time and was hospitalised for treatment, where she breathed her last, her family sources said.

Thimmakka earned the fame 'Saalumarada' after she planted 385 banyan trees all along the 4.5 km stretch between Hulikal and Kudur in Ramanagara headquartered Bengaluru South district.

The word in Kannada means 'a row of trees', said sources.

With no formal education and having no children, she began planting trees to fill the emotional void, later expanding her effort into a lifelong environmental mission. She is believed to have planted and nurtured more than 8,000 trees. For her work, she received 12 awards, including Padma Shri in 2019, Nadoja award by the Hampi University (2010), National Citizen Award (1995) and Indira Priyadarshini Vrikshamitra award (1997).

In his condolence message, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said, "Thimmakka, who planted thousands of trees and nurtured them like her own children, dedicated most of her life to environmental conservation." –*Agencies*

>>>More on Page 2

Thimmakka planted at least 8,000 trees ***PHOTO: SCREENGRAB***

Pulwama house of Delhi blast accused Dr Umar razed

SRINAGAR, 14 NOV

The house of Dr Umar Nabi, who drove the explosive-laden car involved in the Delhi blast, was demolished by security forces in Pulwama during the intervening night of Thursday and Friday, officials said. The Red Fort blast on Monday night claimed 13 lives and injured several others. Umar was behind the wheel of the Hyundai i20 packed with explosives, and his identity was confirmed after DNA samples from the site matched those of his mother.

Once known as an academically accomplished professional, Umar had allegedly become radicalised over the past two years, joining several extremist messaging groups, investigators said. Further details are awaited.

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah criticised the Centre for not informing the elected government about security decisions and investigations involving Valley residents. He said the lack of communication leaves the state administration isolated and without a role in major security matters. Abdullah stressed that not every resident of Jammu and Kashmir should be viewed through a security lens, noting that "a few people have always ruined peace and brotherhood".

Meanwhile, police in Awantipora attached the property of separatist Mohammad Yaqoob Sheikh, a house and four marlas of land.

Sheikh, associated with the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples League, is currently residing in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. —*PTI*

>>>More on Page 5

The house of Dr Umar Nabi, who drove the explosive-laden car involved in the Delhi blast, was demolished in Pulwama ***PHOTO: PTI***

PHOTO: PTI

MEMU trains to run between KSR, Ashokapuram

MYSURU, 14 NOV

South Western Railway has decided to operate tri-weekly unreserved MEMU special trains (Train Nos. 06213/06214) between KSR Bengaluru and Ashokapuram to manage the passenger rush during weekends along with the Sri Satya Sai Baba centenary celebrations at Sri Sathya Sai Prashanthi Nilayam. These services will run on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays for eighteen trips in each direction. It will operate from 14 November to 8 December. However, it will not operate on 21, 22 and 23 November. Train No. 06213 will depart KSR Bengaluru at 12.15pm and arrive at Ashokapuram at 3.40pm, while Train No. 06214 will depart Ashokapuram at 4.10pm, reaching KSR Bengaluru at 8.00pm on the same day. *—Salar News*

British Airways marks 20 years of services in B'luru

BENGULARU, 14 NOV

British Airways on Friday said it is celebrating 20 years of connecting Bengaluru and London, marking two decades of linking India's technology hub with the United Kingdom. On the occasion, the airline operated a special anniversary flight from London Heathrow to Bengaluru, served entirely by Indian cabin crew. The flight touched down early this morning, paying tribute to the airline's long association with India. Among the crew were Bengaluru-based staff members who also completed 20 years of service with the airline. The airline also launched a flash sale for customers booking flights between Bengaluru and London Heathrow, offering up to 20 per cent off fares in World Traveller and World Traveller Plus cabins. *—PTI*

1 dead, 6 hurt as auto overturns near HD Kote

MYSURU, 14 NOV

A man died and six farm workers, including a toddler, were injured when a goods auto overturned after colliding with an oncoming tempo near Tiger Block in HD Kote on Thursday night. Police identified the deceased as Guruswamy, 32, a goods auto driver from Metikuppe village. The injured, all residents of Mandya district, were migrant labourers engaged in ginger harvest work. The crash occurred while they were travelling from Annur village to another location for field work, officials said. HD Kote police Gangadhar reached the spot and shifted the injured to the taluk government hospital. One of them, Nagamma, was later referred to KR Hospital in Mysuru. *—Salar News*

B'luru: 8th School Cinema Int'l Film Festival '25 begins

BENGULARU, 14 NOV

The 8th edition of the School Cinema International Film Festival 2025 began on Friday, marking the start of what organisers call the "world's largest children's film festival," held in celebration of Children's Day. The inaugural event, hosted at Delhi Public School, Bengaluru South, set the stage for a nationwide celebration of creativity, empathy, and learning through cinema, the festival organisers said in a release. Over 1,000 students, educators, and dignitaries participated in the launch. Participants will watch age-appropriate films, engage in interactive workshops, and take part in a national-level filmmaking competition, all designed to nurture storytelling, empathy, and creativity among children up to grade 10, it added. The festival is also supported by France and Spain as country partners. *—PTI*

'Arson at farmers protest was pre-planned'

Probe ordered to nab culprits who set sugarcane tractors ablaze in Bagalkot

BAGALKOT/BENGALURU, 14 NOV

According to police sources, more than 30 tractor trolleys, four bikes, six tractor engines were damaged in the fire incident on Thursday. At least one policeman was injured *PHOTO: PTI*

The police on Friday said the fire in sugarcane-laden vehicles in this district was premeditated, as the miscreants had brought petrol and other inflammable substances to carry out the arson.

According to Additional Director General of Police R Hitendra, the miscreants had sneaked in the farmers' protest and carried out arson.

The ADGP visited the fire accident spot near a sugar factory at Samirwadi in the district where the vehicles were set on fire.

Later, he told reporters that a case has been registered against the unknown miscreants.

"Sugarcane vehicles were set on fire. We have registered a case. At the preliminary level, it has been found that they had brought petrol and all. It is found that in the name of farmers, miscreants have done this. Whoever it is, we will take strict action," the officer said.

The ADGP said that investigation has started and police will identify those behind this and take action against them.

Following arson and violence on Thursday evening, prohibitory orders were clamped in Mudhol, Jamkhandi, Rabakavi, Banahatti Taluks of Bagalkot district.

According to police sources, more than 30 tractor trolleys, four bikes, six tractor engines were damaged in the fire incident.

Meanwhile, farmers staged a protest in Vijayapura district, demanding appropriate price for sugarcane.

The protesters blocked the National Highway-52 near Yargal KD village in Sindagi Taluk of Vijayapura district. They set tyres on fire on the highway.

CM CALLS FOR PROBE

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday said an investigation will be conducted to identify those responsible for setting fire to tractors and trolleys loaded with sugarcane in this district.

The incident occurred on Thursday evening during a farmers' protest, which demanded Rs 3,500 per tonne for their produce.

"Almost all farmers have accepted the sugarcane procurement price of Rs 3,300 per tonne. Only farmers in Mudhol have not agreed to it. Discussions with them are underway," CM said. *—PTI*

BIDAR DC FIXES SUGARCANE RATE AT ₹2,900/TONNE

BIDAR, 14 NOV

Bidar Deputy Commissioner Shilpa Sharma on Thursday fixed the sugarcane procurement price at Rs 2,900 per tonne after a meeting with farmer leaders and sugar mill representatives.

She said the rate aims to balance farmer interests and factory viability, and is Rs 250 higher than last year.

Officials discussed an earlier proposal to raise the rate to Rs 2,850 with contributions from the State and factories, but growers had staged a large protest in Humanabad demanding Rs 3,100 per tonne, citing widespread crop loss due to heavy rain.

Sharma convened the meeting to finalise the price. She said recovery rates in Bidar and Haveri stand at 9.6, and farmers in Haveri have accepted Rs 2,900.

She assured strict monitoring to ensure factories pay the notified rate. *—Salar News*

'They have done vote chori in Bihar too', claims CM

BENGALURU, 14 NOV

CM Siddaramaiah *PHOTO: PTI*

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday claimed that there was "vote chori" (vote theft) in Bihar too, where the ruling NDA is leading, surpassing the majority mark, as the counting of votes is underway for Assembly polls held in that state.

He, however, said that he is yet to get information on the reasons for the Congress-RJD led alliance set back and NDA's march towards victory with a majority.

"We have to accept the mandate of the people. I don't know what caused the set back. I had not gone there (to Bihar). I don't know who did not vote (for us), why the NDA has won with a big majority. I will try to know," Siddaramaiah told reporters in response to a question on setback for Mahagatbandhan in Bihar.

Asked about the Congress and its leader Rahul Gandhi's 'vote chori' allegations ahead of Bihar polls, the CM said, "They have done chori here too." He, however, did not give any details.

Additionally, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Friday felt the need to work out a new strategy for the Congress party and the INDIA bloc for the future following the Bihar poll results, where the ruling NDA is leading as the counting of votes is underway for Assembly polls in that state. Meanwhile, JD(S) patriarch and former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda on Friday congratulated the NDA, which is set to sweep the Bihar assembly polls, saying the false narratives of the Opposition have been defeated, as he called on them to come out of their "delusions". *—PTI*

'Power tussle' in Karnataka Cong to intensify: BJP

BENGALURU, 14 NOV

The Opposition BJP in Karnataka on Friday predicted that the "power tussle" within the ruling Congress party is likely to intensify in the coming days.

According to BJP, with the Congress central leadership "weakened" by the Bihar poll debacle, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah would emerge stronger. This would make the issue of a potential CM change in the state more contentious. Speculations about a possible change in leadership in the State have been circulating within political circles, particularly as Congress government approaches the halfway mark of its five-year term in November, a period some are calling the "November revolution." "If anyone in Congress is happy today and in a mood to celebrate, it is Siddaramaiah. He will be happy... With the Congress central leadership becoming weak following the Bihar results, CM will grow stronger," R Ashoka, Leader of Opposition in the State Legislative Assembly, said. *—PTI*

WANTED VOTES DELETED

WB man arrested for 2023 Aland election 'vote chori'

BENGALURU, 14 NOV

The CID probing the vote theft allegations in Aland segment in 2023 assembly polls has arrested a man from West Bengal's Nadia district, sources in the department said on Friday.

The 27-year-old man was arrested on Wednesday and brought to Bengaluru.

The CID has taken him in its custody for interrogation.

He had applied for the deletion of many votes in Aland constituency, sources said.

According to Aland Congress MLA BR Patil, most of the requests were made to delete minority and backward caste votes. After learning about the irregular requests for the deletion of voters' names following a complaint lodged by Minister Priyank Kharge and Patil, the Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer ordered a status quo.

Patil won the elections with a margin of about 10,000 votes.

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi held a press conference on 18 September, highlighting the 'Vote Chori' (vote theft) allegation and slammed the Election Commission of shielding the accused by not inquiring into the matter.

According to the CID sources, the accused, Bapi Adya from Nadia, was arrested following a money trail linking to his bank account. *—PTI*

Tungabhadra water release plan announced

BENGALURU, 14 NOV

Water release schedule for various canals under the Tungabhadra project were finalised for the 2025-26 Rabi season at the 125th meeting of the Tungabhadra Irrigation Consultative Committee at the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Friday.

The meeting, chaired by Deputy CM DK Shivakumar, reviewed water availability in the Tungabhadra Reservoir and discussed supply constraints arising from the ongoing installation of crest gates, in case the water level reaching 1,613 ft. The Irrigation Consultative Committee resolved to release water primarily for standing crops and essential uses, including drinking needs during summer.

Water will be released into the Tungabhadra Left Bank Main Canal from 1 December to 10 January, at a rate of 3,000 cusecs for standing crops.

The Vijayanagar Left Bank Canal will receive water from 1 January to 10 May, at 150 cusecs, covering distributary canals 1 to 11. The Tungabhadra Right Bank High Level Canal and the Tungabhadra Right Bank Low Level Canal will get water at 1,300 cusecs and 750 cusecs respectively.

The Raya Basavanna canal will get 250 cusecs from 1 January to 31 May, 2026 or until water remains available.

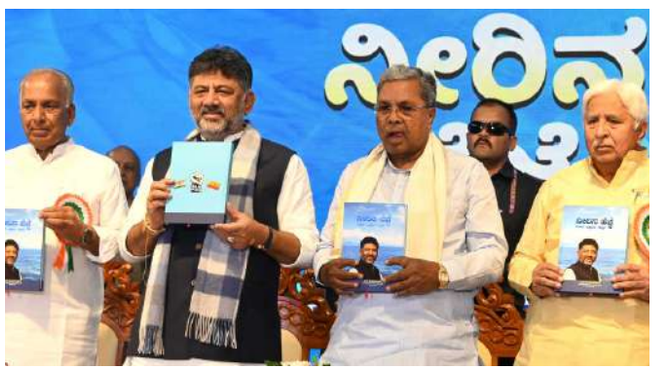
150 cusecs will also be made available to the river-supplemented areas. *—Agencies*

HAPPY CHILDREN'S DAY

Students of Maruthi Kannada Government School, in Wilson Garden, Bengaluru, holding a portrait of Jawaharlal Nehru during an event on Children's Day, which marks the birth anniversary of Nehru, on Friday *PHOTO: MOHAMMAD ASAD*

State opens Mekedatu division after SC rejects TN's plea

BENGALURU, 14 NOV



SS Bosaraju, DyCM DK Shivakumar, CM Siddaramaiah and HK Patil at the release of 'Neerina Hejje', a book on the department of Water Resources, at Vidhana Soudha, in Bengaluru, on Friday *PHOTO: MOHAMMAD ASAD*

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Friday said he has opened a dedicated Mekedatu Balancing Reservoir Division under the Water Resources Department and directed officials to begin work on the project, a day after the Supreme Court rejected Tamil Nadu's plea against it.

Tamil Nadu has been opposing the Mekedatu project, fearing it will cut into its Cauvery water share.

Shivakumar, who also handles the Water Resources portfolio, said he met farmers to address concerns over land loss.

"Today I opened a new division on Mekedatu in the Water Resource Department, inaugurated its office, and decided to identify government land to exchange for the forest or revenue land that will go (submerged)," the Deputy Chief Minister said.

He was speaking at the launch of his Kannada book 'Neerina Hejje' (Footprints of water) here where Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, his cabinet colleagues and senior government officers and advocates were present.

Following the apex court order on Mekedatu, the MPs from Karnataka now have the responsibility to secure environmental and other clearances at the earliest.

Targeting Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, he accused her of not releasing funds for the The Mekedatu balancing reservoir project proposes a dam across the Cauvery near the deep gorge of Mekedatu—where the Arkavathi meets the Cauvery on the Ramanagara-Chamarajanagar border.—*PTI*

30 JUNE, 1911 – 14 NOVEMBER, 2025

Angel of trees Thimmakka planted over 8,000 saplings

Thimmaka blessing the then president Ram Nath Kovind who conferred the Padma Shri award to her 'Padma Awards 2019' *PHOTO: PTI*

BENGALURU, 14 NOV

Born on 30 June, 1911, Thimmakka, a widely revered environmentalist from Gubbi Taluk, Tumakuru District, earned her fame and respect from her unconditional devotion towards nurturing trees and plants, said sources.

According to sources, due to poverty and lack of facilities, she had not received an education. She married Bikkala Chikkayya in 1928. He was a labourer from Hulikal village, in Magadi taluk of Ramanagar district. The couple had an adopted son, Umesh, sources said. In 1991, Chikkayya passed away. After crossing 100 years of age, she was living with Umesh.

On 14 February, 2014, she began the Saalumarada Thimmakka International Foundation trust, said sources.

She also inspired her son to begin the 'Pruthvi Bachao' (Save Earth) movement, it added. She was listed in the 2016 BBC's '100 Most Prominent Women List,' it said.

She was an active participant in State and national environmental protection campaigns, it said. Besides these campaigns, she has also contributed to the local community.

"I am deeply saddened to hear the news of the demise of Salumarada Thimmakka," Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said. He said even though Thimmakka had left for the heavenly abode, her love for the environment has made her immortal. Former prime minister HD Deve Gowda, his son and Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, former chief minister BS Yediyurappa, Karnataka ministers, MPs and MLAs and several political leaders have mourned the demise of of Thimm akkade. —Agencies

SALAR DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU
SATURDAY
15 NOVEMBER 2025

BIHAR DECIDES

BIG WINNERS

MAITHILI THAKUR
Party: BJP Seat: Alinagar
Won by: 11,730

VIJAY KUMAR SINHA
Party: BJP Seat: Lakhisarai
Won by: 24,940

OSAMA SHAHAB
Party: RJD Seat: Raghunathpur
Won by: 9,248

PREM KUMAR
Party: BJP Seat: Gaya Town
Won by: 26,423

MD SARWAR ALAM
Party: AIMIM Seat: Kochadhaman
Won by: 3,188

ALOK KUMAR MEHTA
Party: RJD Seat: Ujiarpur
Won by: 16,283

SHRAWON KUMAR
Party: JD(U) Seat: Nalanda
Won by: 33,008

MANGAL PANDEY
Party: BJP Seat Siwan
Won by: 9,370

RJD and BJP workers and supporters celebrate in Panta and Bihar, feeding Prime Minister Narendra Modi ladoos and holding posters of Chief Minister NItish Kumar saying that the 'tiger abhi zinda hai' (tiger is still alive) ***PHOTOS: PTI***

CONGRESS WILL SPLIT SOON: MODI

Gloating after landslide victory, Modi says youth want SIR to purify voter rolls

NEW DELHI, 14 NOV

Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the NDA's landslide victory win in the Bihar assembly elections and predicted the mammoth performance would fragment the Congress.

"The Congress criticises the Election Commission, makes frivolous complaints about baseless issues like 'vote chori', divides people on basis of religion and caste," he said in his address to BJP workers and supporters at party headquarters in Delhi. "The Congress has no positive vision for the country."

"Today, the Congress has become the Muslimleegi Maowadi Congress -- MMC (Muslim League Maoist Congress)... And because of this, even within Congress, a new branch is emerging, which is even worse than this negative politics," he claimed.

> **The opposition parties should stop contesting elections as long as Gyanesh Kumar is CEC and the Election Commission remains compromised**
> —Yashwant Sinha, former MEA

> **If anyone wants to defeat the BJP, they have to become like the BJP and work 24×7. The Congress will have to work in the same manner. They cannot sit in air-conditioned offices**
> —Anand Dubey, Shiv Sena (UBT)

> **No party is big or small in the NDA... The people have given us a huge mandate. We must accept it with humility and bow before them**
> —Dilip Jaiswal , Bihar BJP President

"And I have a suspicion that there may be another big division of Congress in the future," he said adding that some 'naamdars' (dynast) within the party are drowning everyone with them. "The supporters of Congress have also begun to understand it. Everyone is drowning at the same time."

Modi added that voters in Bihari had given their support to "clean up" the voter list as he urged parties to participate in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise. He said that youth in Bihar took the exercise very seriously and the youth support the "purification" of rolls.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, posted on X: "Every single vote cast by the people of Bihar is a symbol of trust in the Modi government's policy against infiltrators who threaten India's security and resources, and against those who support them."

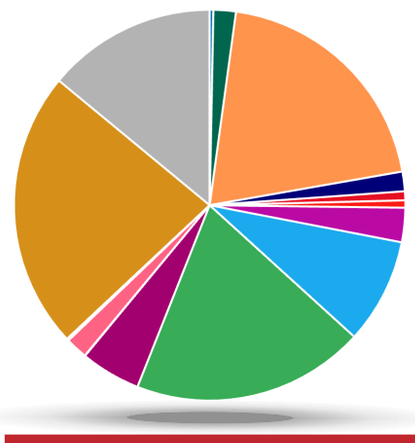
Modi, in his speech, said that the NDA would next "throw out the jungle raj" in West Bengal.

He said the victory in Bihar has given a new "M-Y -- Mahila and Youth" formula with the people destroying the "communal M-Y formula of the jungle raj people".

However, SP leader Akhilesh Yadav said that the games played with SIR would not be allowed again.

The Prime Minister added that Bihar voted for good governance and development, as he congratulated the BJP's alliance partners -- Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, LJP-RV supremo Chirag Paswan, HAM leader Jitan Ram Manjhi and RLM chief Upendra Kushwaha on X. —*Agencies*

PARTY-WISE VOTE SHARE



BJP	20.08%
AIMIM	1.85%
BSP	1.62%
CPI	0.74%
CPI(M)	0.60%
CPI(ML)(L)	2.84%
INC	8.71%
JD(U)	19.25%
LJPRV	4.97%
RJD	23.00%

SEATS BY PARTIES

NDA		MGB	
BJP	89	RJD	25
JD(U)	85	INC	6
LJPRV	19	CPI (ML)L	2
HAMS	5	CPI (M)	1
RLM	4	IIP	1

AN ELECTION LIKE NO OTHER

WHY THE RECORD TURNOUT OF WOMEN?

Both PM Modi and CM Nitish Kumar had transferred Rs 10,000 to the accounts of 1 crore women. They claimed that it was part of the Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana scheme while the Opposition accused the NDA was bribing voters and violating the code of conduct. Because it was part of a running scheme, NDA claimed, it was permissible. Additionally, the NDA promised Rs 2.1 lakh grant for women entrepreneurs under Mukhyamantri Kanya Utthan Yojana scheme and the creation of 1 crore 'Lakhpati Didis', one-upping the Mahagathbandhan's promises.

WHAT WORKED FOR THE NDA?

- The powerful Nitish-Modi combo swayed voters, despite Opposition's claims about Kumar's declining mental health.
- Modi's rhetoric on "jungle raj". By positioning the Mahagathbandhan as lawless and corrupt and the NDA as pro-development, the ruling bloc seemingly struck a meaningful chord.
- The NDA – namely the BJP – managed to win a lot of Muslim-dominated seats. Such seats are typically RJD strongholds.
- The NDA hiked stipends for workers in unorganised sectors, such Asha and Anganwadi jeevika workers, helping woo women voters.

A STORY OF FREEBIES

- NDA has promised:
- 1 crore jobs in 5 years. Unemployment was perhaps the most important poll issue in Bihar.
- RS 2.1 lakh grant for women entrepreneurs under Mukhyamantri Kanya Utthan Yojana. This helped the NDA retain Kumar's women vote bank.
- 125 units of free electricity per household. Helped woo economically weaker sections.
- Increased the pension given to elderly women and other socially vulnerable groups.

Mukesh Sahani's VIP flop show

It was a sad day for Mukesh Sahani, whose party Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP) failed to win a single seat. The former Bollywood stage designer was the deputy chief ministerial candidate for Mahagathbandhan. Accepting his defeat, he said, "Voters did not connect with our message," and added that NDA's cash push to women helped them win.

Alinagar votes to be renamed as Sitanagar

BJP's Maithili Thakur has repeatedly promised to rename Alinagar, her constituency, as Sitanagar. The move seemingly stems for religious politics - Alinagar is a Muslim name, while Sitanagar would be named after Hindu goddess Sita.

Masked forever: Pushpam Priya

Pushpam Priya Choudhary, who heads the lesser-known Plurals Party, had vowed to wear a black mask in public until she wins an election. She suffered a massive defeat in Darbhanga constituency and it remains to be seen if she follows through on her strange campaign promise.

WHO SPENT HOW MUCH ON DIGITAL ADS?

BJP: Rs 67,587,500

Jan Suraaj: Rs 11,069,250

JD(U): Rs 2,863,500

Congress: Rs 17,250

BIG LOSERS

SHATRUGHAN YADAV
(KHESARI LAL YADAV)
Party: RJD Seat: Chapra
Lost by: 7,600

SUMIT KUMAR SINGH
Party: JD(U) Seat: Chakai
Lost by: 12,972

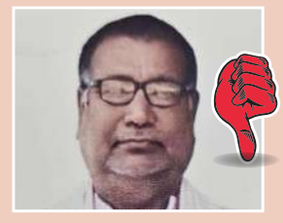
CHETAN ANAND
Party: JD(U) Seat: Nabinagar
Lost by: 112

NAVNEET JHA
Party: RJD Seat: Sheohar
Lost by: 31,398

SHAKEEL AHMED KHAN
Party: Congress Seat: Kadwa
Lost by: 18,368

SANTOSH KUMAR
Party: RJD Seat: Dhamdaha
Lost by: 42,361

KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR
Party: Congress Seat: Nalanda
Lost by: 33,008



BINOD MISHRA
Party: RJD's Seat: Alinagar
Lost by: 11,730

HOW DID THE TURNCOATS FARE?

VIBHA DEVI
Party: JD(U) (Previously RJD) Seat: Nawada
Won by: 2,7594

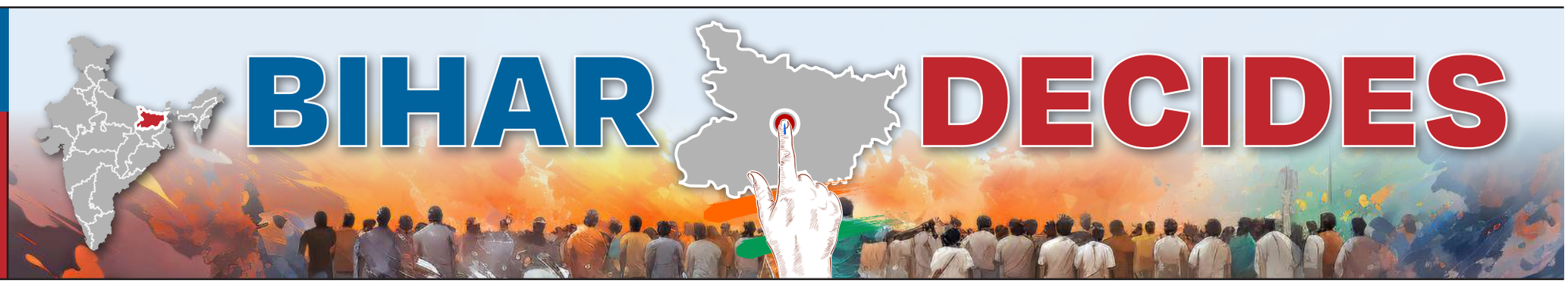
PRAMOD KUMAR SINGH
Party: JD(U) (Previously LJP) Seat: Rafiganj
Won by: 11,956

SUMIT KUMAR SINGH
Party: JD(U) (Previously Independent) Seat: Chakai
Won by: 12,972

KUSHAL YADAV
Party: RJD (Previously JD(U)) Seat: Nawada
Won by: 2,7594

SALAR DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

SATURDAY
15 NOVEMBER 2025



THAT SINKING FEELING...

CONGRESS PERFORMS ITS WORST IN BIHAR

NEW DELHI, 14 NOV

Congress' performance in Bihar has emerged as one of the biggest setbacks for the Mahagathbandhan. The party, already struggling with a weak strike rate in the 2020 polls, performed even worse this time, leading to the alliance's rout across the state.

Congress contested 60–61 seats but won only six, one of its worst results in Bihar. This marks a steep decline from its 19 seats in 2020 (from 70 contested, with around 9.5 per cent vote share) and the 27 seats it secured in 2015 (from 41 seats, with a vote share between 6.8 per cent and 11.11 per cent).

"Even if I die in the service of the nation, I would be proud of it. Every drop of my blood will contribute to the growth of this nation and to make it strong and dynamic."
- Indira Gandhi
एक सार्थक जीवन
... a life well lived
RAJIV GANDHI
1944 - 1991

Silence engulfed Congress office in New Delhi on Friday, with workers trickling out after the party managed to win just 6 of 61 seats in Bihar *PHOTO: PTI*

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, who said he had not been invited to campaign in Bihar, called for "serious introspection" over the verdict. He said the party must examine organisational weaknesses, messaging and the broader public mood. "We were not the senior partner in the alliance, and the RJD also has to look carefully at its own performance," he added.

Rahul Gandhi's long absence from the campaign during September and October, reportedly due to disagreements over ticket distribution that favoured RJD loyalists, further affected coordination.

Relations between the Congress and the RJD deteriorated as seat-sharing talks repeatedly broke down, leading to "friendly fights" in 11 seats.

This split the anti-NDA vote and significantly weakened the alliance's prospects.

As the defeat became clear, internal criticism sharpened. Mumtaz Patel, daughter of late Congress stalwart Ahmed Patel, blamed repeated failures on power being concentrated among leaders "disconnected from ground reality", urging the party to "accept the reality" and deliver results for loyal workers who have "waited for years".

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Priyanka Chaturvedi, formerly with the Congress, urged the opposition to engage more meaningfully with women voters. "Dear Opposition Leaders... Speak to the women of the country. An alternative cannot be without them," she posted on X. *—PTI*

> **There is, of course, the popular mood. There are questions about the organisation's strengths and weaknesses. There is a question of messaging. These are issues that will have to be looked at**
> —Shashi Tharoor, Cong MP

RJD's fall: From single largest party to 2nd worst performance

NEW DELHI, 14 NOV

As the counting in the high-voltage Bihar election draws to a close, the main opposition RJD is staring at one of its worst performances. Contesting 143 seats, the Tejashwi Yadav-led party has secured only 24 seats and is leading in five. If these numbers hold, it will mark the RJD's second-worst showing after its 2010 tally of 22 seats and a dramatic fall from its position as the single largest party in 2020. While the RJD still holds the highest vote share, it appears to have won some seats by large margins while losing numerous close contests.

The outcome comes as a personal blow to Tejashwi Yadav, who entered the polls as the INDIA bloc's chief ministerial face despite reported reservations among allies. Ten years after his remarkable political debut as Deputy Chief Minister at 25, he managed to win Raghopur only after trailing through several rounds.

Tejashwi's early career followed an unfulfilled stint in cricket and a swift rise in politics under Lalu Prasad's patronage, but controversies—including a money-laundering case dating back to his father's railway ministry tenure—soured ties with Nitish Kumar, prompting his return to the NDA. This election has seen the RJD's tally drop from 75 in 2020 to less than half, with Tejashwi unable to counter the NDA's "jungle raj" narrative, fuelled further by lewd canvassing involving minors at RJD rallies. Analysts also point to his misreading of Nitish Kumar's enduring goodwill and the visible absence of women at RJD meetings, signalling a trust deficit. *—PTI*

PK GETS 0/243 SEATS

PATNA, 14 NOV

Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraaj Party (JSP), projected by some as an 'X factor' in the Bihar, has failed to open its account in the 243-member House.

Ahead of the elections, the former poll strategist made two striking predictions, one about his new party and another about the JD(U), where he once served as national vice-president. His own "arsh par ya farsh par" (either sky-high or down in the dust) forecast has proved painfully accurate. Meanwhile, JD(U) leaders, including Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, are likely to mock his claim that the party would "not win more than 25 seats". The JD(U) tally now seems set to cross 80, its best showing since 2010, despite contesting fewer seats.

BLAMES BJP

For Kishor, the electoral setback is significant. JSP attempted to contest nearly all 243 seats and even accused BJP leaders, including Union Home Minister Amit Shah, of preventing some candidates from filing nomination papers.

THE PADAYATRA WITH NO IMPACT

Kishor, 47, launched the JSP last year after a months-long padayatra across Bihar. Despite a vigorous campaign highlighting unemployment, migration and the lack of industrial growth, the party struggled to convert public engagement into votes.

Critics often highlight Kishor's incorrect predictions, including his assertion that the BJP would cross 300 seats in last year's Lok Sabha polls.

Kishor has shaped election campaigns for leaders such as Narendra Modi, Nitish Kumar, Mamata Banerjee, Arvind Kejriwal, Jagan Mohan Reddy and MK Stalin. But not all his projects succeeded, a point his detractors frequently stress.

He previously served as JD(U)'s national vice-president before being expelled for criticising Nitish Kumar's stand on the Citizenship Amendment Act. Later ventures, including his "Baat Bihar Ki" campaign and a proposed blueprint to revive the Congress, failed to take off. *—PTI*

238
JSP candidates to forfeit their security deposit

In many seats, NOTA got more votes than JSP.

Got 3.44
per cent of the total vote placing it 7th in statewide share.

WHO SAID WHAT?

> **That is Bihar's equation. It has no connection with Bengal. It will not affect Bengal. In Bengal, the factors are development, unity, harmony, rights, and self-respect. With 250+ seats, Mamata Banerjee will become chief minister again**
> —TMC

> **The Bihar election results do not correspond to the ground reality in the state**
> —Dipankar Bhattacharya, CPI(ML) Liberation General Secretary

> **As I said, the initial trends in itself show that Gyanesh Kumar appears to be succeeding against the people of Bihar. This fight is not between the BJP, Congress, RJD, and JDU. This is a direct fight between Gyanesh Kumar and the people of India**
> —Pawan Khera, Cong leader

Voter Adhikar Yatra turns a dud

PATNA, 14 NOV

The Voter Adhikar Yatra, spearheaded by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and RJD's Tejashwi Yadav just weeks ahead of the Bihar Assembly polls, proved ineffective electorally with the Mahagathbandhan almost wiped out.

Congress had a lot of hope in Rahul Gandhi's Voter Adhikar Yatra, which travelled through 25 of the 38 districts and 110 Assembly segments. The campaign raised concerns over alleged "vote theft" due to the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR), which the party claimed removed 1.5 crore voters, largely from poorer and minority communities.

The yatra started from Dehri, Sasaram, on 17 August where Rajeev Ranjan Singh of NDA ally Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) won. The yatra then moved to Kutumba and

Aurangabad, from where Lalan Ram of Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular) and BJP's Trivikram Narayan Singh won.

The yatra then went to Wazirganj, Gaya, Nawada and Barbigha. BJP won from Wazirganj and Gaya town. JD(U) won from Nawada and Barbigha. JD(U) also won from Sheikhpura while BJP bagged Jamui and Munger. The yatra had passed through all these areas.

The yatra had also traversed through Katihar and Purnia, both of which BJP won. It had also passed through Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur and Sitamarhi, where NDA won.

Araria proved to be an exception as Congress' Abidur Rahman won here.

Gandhi covered at least 1,300km with Tejashwi Yadav, CPI(ML)'s Dipankar Bhattacharya and Vikassheel Insan Party's Mukesh Sahni by his side. *—PTI*

The Left left behind: Parties fall to their lowest

NEW DELHI, 14 NOV

The Left parties suffered their worst performance in Bihar, with leaders calling the Mahagathbandhan's defeat a major setback and "not reflective of ground realities". The CPI(ML)-Liberation, which had won 12 of the 19 seats it contested in 2020, managed victories only in Paliganj and Karakat after contesting 20 this time. The CPI(M) won a single seat, Bibhutipur, while the CPI drew a blank. In 2020, the three Left parties together had won 16 of the 29 seats they fought.

CPI(M) general secretary MA Baby said the results were "quite unexpected" despite campaigns on unemployment, misuse of the Election Commission and governance issues. He accused the NDA of misusing state machinery and money power and said the opposition needs to project a more united image, noting that "friendly contests" in a dozen constituencies had sent wrong signals.

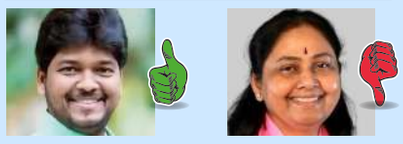
CPI(M) leader Awadhesh Kumar said the outcome was below expectations and would be analysed, pointing to factors such as the Rs 10,000 scheme for women. CPI general secretary D Raja said the INDIA bloc must introspect as large campaign crowds did not translate into votes, adding that faulty seat-sharing and discrepancies in voter figures need scrutiny.

CPI(ML)-L general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya termed the results "unnatural", saying a two-decade-old government repeating its 2010 performance was inexplicable. The CPI(ML)-L's vote share fell to 2.89 per cent from 3.16 per cent in 2020, while the CPI(M) and CPI also saw marginal declines. *—PTI*

TEST ON STRONGHOLDS

2 BYPOLL WINS GIVE CONGRESS A LIFELINE, NC CRASHES OUT

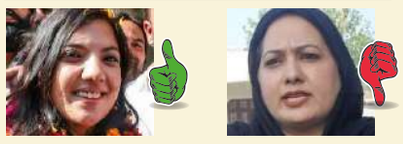
JUBILEE HILLS, TELANGANA



Naveen Yadav V — Party: Cong
Maganti Sunitha Gopinath — Party: BRS

VOTE MARGIN: 24,729

NARGOTA, J&K



Devyani Rana — Party: BJP
Shamim Begum — Party: NC

VOTE MARGIN: 24,647

>>>Continued from Page 1

Congress secured two wins in the latest round of bypolls, offering the party a political lifeline, while NC suffered a historic setback with its first-ever defeat in Budgam, Jammu and Kashmir. The Congress victories came in Rajasthan's Anta and Telangana's Jubilee Hills seats.

In Anta, Congress candidate Pramod Jain Bhaya defeated BJP nominee Morpal Suman by 15,612 votes. The bypoll was necessitated after BJP MLA Kanwar Lal Meena was disqualified following his criminal conviction. In Jubilee Hills, the Congress registered its second win of the cycle. In Budgam, PDP's Aga Syed Muntazir defeated NC candidate Aga Syed Mehmooz. The seat fell vacant after Chief Minister Omar Abdullah chose to retain Ganderbal, his family strong-hold. This marks the NC's first loss in Budgam since Assembly elections began in 1957.

BJP won the Nagrota seat in Jammu and Kashmir, while in Mizoram, MNF retained Dampa. In Jharkhand, JMM candidate Somesh Chandra Soren won the Ghatshila bypoll by over 38,500 votes, following the death of his father MLA Ramdas Soren. *—PTI*

DAMPA, MIZORAM

R Lalthangliana — Party: MNF
Vanlalsailova — Party: ZPM

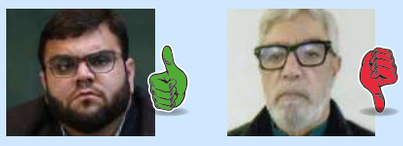
VOTE MARGIN: 562

NUAPADA, ODISHA

Jay Dholakia — Party: BJP
Ghasi Ram Majhi — Party: Cong

VOTE MARGIN: 83,748

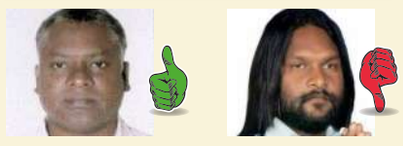
BUDGAM, J&K



Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi — Party: PDP
Aga Syed Mahmood Al-Mosavi — Party: NC

VOTE MARGIN: 4,478

GHATSILA, JHARKHAND



Somesh Chandra Soren — Party: JMM
Babu Lal Soren — Party: BJP

VOTE MARGIN: 38,601

TARN TARAN, PUNJAB

Harmeet Singh Sandhu — Party: AAP
Sukhwinder Kaur — Party: SAD

VOTE MARGIN: 12,091

ANTA, RAJASTHAN

Pramod Jain Bhaya — Party: Cong
Morpal Suman — Party: BJP

VOTE MARGIN: 15,612

Key suspect for organ trafficking case held in Kerala

KOCHI, 14 NOV

The National Investigation Agency has arrested Madhu Jayakumar, the prime accused in a case involving trafficking people to Iran for illegal organ donation. The 37-year-old Ernakulam native was arrested upon his return from Iran on 8 November. Following NIA's petition, Madhu was produced before the Kochi court on 12 November and remanded to NIA custody until 19 November. The investigation began after the immigration officials intercepted a youth at Kochi airport on 18 May, 2024. Those involved lured financially distressed individuals to Iran for what was falsely presented as legal donation. "Madhu was controlling the trafficking operations in Iran," sources hinted. An Interpol Red Notice had been issued against him in February 2025.—*PTI*

Six people booked for attack on journo in Lucknow

LUCKNOW, 14 NOV

Lucknow Police have registered a case against six unidentified individuals following an alleged attack on local journalist Mukesh Dwivedi here, an official said on Friday. The incident occurred when Dwivedi, accompanied by a friend, was confronted by three vehicles while driving in his SUV after servicing. The complainant reported that the occupants threatened him and allegedly fired at him when confronted, a claim denied by police. The case includes charges under multiple sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, including attempted murder and rioting. Mohanlalganj Station House Officer Dilesh Kumar Singh stated, "There was no firing. We suspect the incident may relate to personal enmity." An investigation is ongoing, with no arrests made yet. —*PTI*

Jail official stabbed by inmates in Kerala

THRISSUR, 14 NOV

An assistant prison officer, Abhinav, was severely injured after being stabbed by inmates Azaruddin and Manoj at Viyyoor High Security Prison on Thursday evening. The officer was attacked with a sharpened tile when he instructed the inmates to return to their cells. The assailants subsequently assaulted him with keys, and another inmate, Rejikumar, who tried to intervene, was also attacked. Emergency responders quickly arrived to assist both victims. An FIR has been registered against the inmates under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, including attempted murder. Officials reported that while the officer sustained serious injuries, his condition is stable. The inmates are expected to be formally arrested shortly.—*PTI*

PHOTO: SCREENGRAB

Five killed in expressway car accident in MP

RATLAM, 14 NOV

A tragic accident on Madhya Pradesh's Delhi-Mumbai Expressway claimed five lives when a speeding car crashed through barriers and fell into a ditch. The incident occurred in the Rawti area around 8.30am. Superintendent of Police Amit Kumar confirmed the vehicle was travelling from Delhi to Mumbai, losing control before smashing the aluminium barrier and plunging into the ditch. Among the deceased are a 15-year-old boy and a 70-year-old man. Preliminary investigations suggest the driver may have dozed off, leading to the crash. Recovery operations have been completed with bodies sent for post-mortem. An exhaustive investigation is underway, authorities confirmed.—*PTI*

Chandi Chowk guides now narrate night of terror

Post-blast curiosity replaced Mughal-era narratives entirely

NEW DELHI, 14 NOV

The routine business around the Chandni Chowk gate that once drew tourists, including foreigners eager to view the Red Fort and hear stories of Delhi's Mughal era, has changed since Monday night.

Tourist guides say they have lost half their visitors, and those who still come are more interested in the deadly blast than the monument's heritage. Many vendors who ran food stalls or sold trinkets have shifted to other livelihoods after losing their goods.

On Friday, a small group of foreign tourists stood near the barricades as Iqbal, 25, spoke to them about the incident. "I used to take at least 10 sets of tourists every day," he said. "Now, those who come only ask about the blast. For two days, this is all anyone wants to hear."

Sohail, a guide for nearly a decade, said his tour narrative has changed completely. "Instead of talking about Shah Jahan, we now explain the blast and what police have found. We have lost more than half the tourists," he said. He recalled hearing a loud explosion that left his ears numb.

Rakesh Sharma said the scene "changed within seconds", adding that tourists now ask if the area is safe. "We can only repeat what police tell us," he said.

Many vendors who ran food stalls or sold trinkets have shifted to other livelihoods after losing their goods PHOTO: PTI

- Tourist guides say they have lost half their visitors, and those who still come are more interested in the deadly blast near Red Fort than the monument's heritage

The blast has displaced many workers. Devender, 50, who sold toys, lost most of his stock and now rents a rickshaw. Street-food seller Mohammad Tahir has done the same.

Joginder, a local resident, said the shock was felt across the neighbourhood. A high-intensity explosion ripped through a slow-moving car near the Red Fort metro station on Monday, killing 13.

Guides and vendors are returning, but their stories now begin with that night of terror. —*PTI*

PUNE ROAD ACCIDENT

Dead truck driver, cleaner booked

PUNE, 14 NOV

Pune police have registered a case of culpable homicide against the deceased driver and cleaner of a container truck involved in a crash that killed eight persons and injured 14 on the Mumbai–Bengaluru highway, officials said on Friday. The truck's owner has also been booked.

The accident occurred on the Navale Bridge, a known accident-prone stretch, on Thursday evening when a Mumbai-bound container truck allegedly lost control due to suspected brake failure. Police said the vehicle hit several others, including a mini-bus, before ramming another container truck ahead. A car caught between the two trucks was crushed, and officers suspect its CNG kit exploded on impact, sparking a fire that engulfed all three vehicles.

Smoke billows as fire engulfs two large container trucks and a car after an accident on a bridge along the Mumbai-Bengaluru Highway, in Pune, Maharashtra PHOTO:PTI

Deputy Commissioner of Police Sambhaji Kadam said all five occupants of the car, a family returning from the religious site of Narayanpur, died in the crash. The eighth victim was a resident of Satara district.

The deceased truck driver, Rustam Khan, 35, and cleaner, Mushtaq Khan, 31, were from Rajasthan. The owner, Tahir Khan, 45, was not in the vehicle. "We have registered an offence against the driver, the cleaner and the owner under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and relevant sections of the Motor Vehicles Act," an official said. —*PTI*

Kerala Flipkart hub hit by Rs 1.61 cr fraud

KOCHI, 14 NOV

Police have launched a probe after Flipkart reported a major fraud at multiple delivery hubs in Kerala's Ernakulam district, where mobile phones worth Rs 1.61 crore went missing.

The Ernakulam Rural Cyber Police registered a case on Thursday based on a complaint from the company's enforcement officer.

The fraud was traced to hubs in Kanjoor, Kuruppampady, Mekkad and Muvattupuzha, where four managers, Siddiqy K Aliyar, Jassim Dileep, Haris PA and Mahin Noushad, allegedly ordered 332 phones using fake addresses and multiple numbers between 8 August and 10 October, 2025.

Police booked them under cheating and forgery charges, and further investigation is under way. A—*PTI*

BEWARE ONLINE!

Fraudsters spread fake Delhi blast files to hack many

NEW DELHI, 14 NOV

Cyber fraudsters are exploiting public curiosity about the blast near Red Fort here on 10 November, which killed 13 people and injured over two dozen, by circulating malicious files claiming to contain "blast evidence," police officials said on Friday.

Several recipients, including Delhi Police personnel, have received messages from foreign-based numbers purporting to be from a woman who claims to possess crucial videos or proof related to the explosion.

To lend credibility, the messages include .apk and zip files, urging recipients to download them immediately.

"This is a new modus operandi. Fraudsters know people want every detail of the Red Fort blast and are exploiting that curiosity," a police official said.

Once installed, the .apk or zip files silently deploy malware, granting cybercriminals remote access to the victim's device. "They can access mobile banking apps, read OTPs, intercept messages, and siphon off funds within minutes," the source explained.

Reports indicate that several police personnel have also received such messages, raising alarms across law enforcement.

Cyber experts warn that fraudsters deliberately link messages to high-profile incidents to increase engagement.

"People click more when the topic is sensitive or newsworthy. Fraudsters exploit this instinctively," said one expert.

Delhi Police have urged citizens not to download .apk files outside official app stores, delete unsolicited messages, and report suspicious activity.

Residents are advised to enable mobile security features, avoid unknown links, and block suspicious numbers proactively.

According to official data, Delhi residents have lost nearly Rs 1,000 crore to cyber fraud this year, with investment scams, digital arrests, and boss scams among the most prevalent cybercrimes.Authorities continue to monitor such threats closely. They warned the public against falling for schemes that exploit tragedies or sensational news.

Police have also launched awareness campaigns to educate citizens about cyber scams. —*PTI*

India requires 86.11M enrolments for NEP 2035 goal

NEW DELHI, 14 NOV

India must accommodate 86.11 million students in higher education by 2035 to meet the New Education Policy (NEP) target of a 50 per cent Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER), according to a new report by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Grant Thornton Bharat. This represents an 85 per cent rise from current enrolments and demands a steady annual growth of 5.3 per cent in institutional capacity over the next decade.

The report, Continuous Improvement Journey of Higher Education Institutions, warns that physical campuses alone cannot support this scale. It calls for a broad shift to technology-led, flexible learning through digital universities, virtual ecosystems and credit-based online programmes to widen access beyond traditional infrastructure.

The findings draw on roundtables with more than ten universities in northern India, supported by secondary research, and reflect the priorities of leaders steering institutional transformation. With nearly 40 per cent of core job skills expected to change by 2030, employability is becoming central to curriculum design. Institutions are increasingly adopting micro-credentials, modular credits and work-integrated learning, and deploying AI-enabled evaluations in collaboration with industry.

The report notes that technology, globalisation and evolving learner expectations are reshaping the sector. Institutions are expanding academic flexibility, simplifying governance processes, improving stakeholder experience and integrating automation across academic and administrative functions.

It stresses that higher education reform is now an operational necessity, not merely a policy vision. As institutions deepen their improvement efforts, the focus is shifting from access alone to ensuring scale and quality. —*PTI*

Delhi pollution: Activists claim illegal arrest

PUNE, 14 NOV

Environmental groups on Friday accused Delhi Police of illegally detaining protesters, including women and minors, during the 9 November demonstration at India Gate against the city's worsening air quality.

Police denied the charge, saying detentions followed an unauthorised gathering. Delhi's AQI, which hit the severe zone earlier this week, eased slightly to very poor on Friday, with the CPCB reporting 397 overall and hotspots like Wazirpur and Chandni Chowk above 440.

Police denied the charge, saying detentions followed an unauthorised gathering PHOTO:SCREENGRAB

Scientists for Society and other groups said members, including parents and activists, were picked up despite peaceful protests. They alleged women were taken to Narela late at night and left unsupported. "This was arbitrary," a representative said. Police refuted the claims, asserting no child was held and India Gate is not a designated protest site. DCP Kumar Mahla said action was preventive.

The groups criticised the government for downplaying pollution, and demanded a Jan Samiti to monitor pollution and withdrawal of FIRs no child was held and India Gate is not a designated protest site. DCP Kumar Mahla said action was preventive. The groups criticised the government for downplaying pollution, and demanded a Jan Samiti to monitor pollution and withdrawal of FIRs no child was held and India Gate is not a designated protest site. —*PTI*

HC slams son for suing aged parents

PUNE, 14 NOV

The Bombay High Court criticised a man for dragging his elderly parents to court instead of caring for them, remarking that society has "forgotten Shravan Kumar".

Justice Jitendra Jain, refusing any relief to the petitioner, upheld a 2018 civil court order that allowed the parents to use their son's Goregaon home whenever they visited Mumbai for medical care.

The court said the case reflected a distressing trend where children evade their duty towards ageing parents. Justice noted that cultural values had eroded to the point where parents who once raised their children with sacrifice now struggle to find support in return. The judge added that caring for parents was both a moral and sacred obligation, adding that "ten children sometimes cannot care for their parents".

Currently living with another son in Kolhapur, the parents travel to Mumbai for treatment. The court directed the petitioner or his wife to receive, host, and accompany them to the hospital. Any breach would invite contempt proceedings. —*PTI*

PUNE OFFICIAL REMOVED OVER 15 ACRE GOVT PLOT SALE

PUNE, 14 NOV

The Inspector General of Registration (IGR) has suspended Vidya Shankar Bade, Senior Clerk and In-charge Sub-Registrar of Haveli No. 17, and ordered a high-level probe after a 15-acre Pune government plot belonging to the Animal Husbandry Department was allegedly sold in violation of state rules for Rs 33 crore despite being non-transferable.

A joint inquiry found Bade registered the sale using an outdated June 2023 7/12 extract, bypassing the updated February 2025 record naming the Commissioner of Animal Husbandry as owner, and exploited the software's "skip" option to avoid verification. The deed, executed on 9 January 2025, lacked approvals from Revenue or Animal Husbandry Departments.

The suspension order cited the act's seriousness, attaching Bade to the Principal Stamps Office in Mumbai and restricting travel. A departmental inquiry will probe undervaluation and possible accomplices.

Animal Husbandry farm manager Dr Amol Aher filed a police complaint against 26 individuals, following similar irregularities at Mundhwa and Bopodi. —*PTI*

SCREEN ICON OF 1940S

Veteran actor Kamini Kaushal dies at 98

MUMBAI, 14 NOV

Veteran actor Kamini Kaushal, one of Hindi cinema's earliest female pioneers, died at her Mumbai home late on Thursday. She was 98 and would have turned 99 in February, family friend Sajan Narain said.

Born Uma Kashyap on 24 February, 1927, in Lahore, Kaushal graduated in English literature before filmmaker Chetan Anand cast her in the Cannes-winning 1946 film Neecha Nagar. Renamed Kamini Kaushal, she quickly rose to prominence and worked with Dilip Kumar, Dev Anand and Raj Kapoor in films such as Do Bhai, Aag and Ziddi. An adept horse rider and swimmer, she entered films after Anand, a family friend, encouraged her.

- Kamini Kaushal remained active for decades, appearing in Bollywood hits such as Chennai Express and Kabir Singh. Her final role was a cameo in Aamir Khan starring Laal Singh Chaddha at 95, closing a 76-year career

Among the highest paid actresses of the late 1940s and early 1950s, she later transitioned to character roles, notably as the mother figure in Manoj Kumar's Upkar, Purab Aur Paschim and Roti Kapda Aur Makaan. Her acclaimed performance in Bimal Roy's Biraj Bahu earned both National and Filmfare awards.

Kaushal remained active for decades, appearing in Chennai Express and Kabir Singh. Her final role was a cameo in Laal Singh Chaddha at 95, closing a 76-year career.

Beyond cinema, she worked extensively with children through puppetry, and the Children's Film Society of India. Under her Gudia Ghar banner, she created and voiced puppets for Doordarshan. Kaushal married BS Sood in 1948 after her sister's death and raised five children.—*PTI*

People do 78 minutes of commuting daily: Study

NEW DELHI, 14 NOV

A global study estimates people spend about 78 minutes daily commuting, regardless of country or income, researchers said. Covering 43 countries and over half the world's population, the study found daily commute times generally range from 66 to 90 minutes, largely independent of travel mode or distance.

Published in Environmental Research Letters, the study suggests this "convergent" commute time stems from psychological needs to observe surroundings and practical limits on travel. "People don't travel less when speed or efficiency increases; they travel farther," said Eric Galbraith, lead author at Spain's Autonomous University of Barcelona. Findings indicate energy consumption per hour, rather than per kilometre, will shape future transport energy use. "Since total travel time is nearly constant, policies promoting low-energy-per-hour transport modes will be most effective," said co-author William Fajzel, a PhD student at McGill University.

Researchers noted total travel time converges at 1.3 hours daily with minimal variation across incomes. While behaviour may shift time allocation, it overall remains constant. Cities relying more on high-energy modes, consume more energy than those favouring walking. —*PTI*

Security forces kill 26 terrorists in northwest Pak

PESHAWAR, 14 NOV

Pakistani security forces killed 26 terrorists in multiple intelligence-based operations in the restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, officials said on Friday. The three operations were conducted in the Bajaur, Kohat and Karak districts on Thursday. The operation in Bajaur was conducted after receiving credible information about the presence of a large number of terrorists in the Gaddar village. The terrorists were hiding in the village. Separately, according to District Police Officer (DPO) Kohat, Shehbaz Ilahi, the station house officer of Saddar police station was on a routine patrol with his team when the terrorists opened fire on them near Bazid Khel. *—PTI*

Protesters block entrance to COP30 talks in Brazil

BELEM, 14 NOV

About 100 protesters blocked an entrance to the United Nations climate conference on the edge of the Brazilian Amazon on Friday morning. Brazilian military personnel kept demonstrators from entering the site during negotiations at the COP30 meetings in Belem. Protesters wore clothing associated with Indigenous groups and some protesters formed a human chain around portions of the demonstration. Conference participants were rerouted and delegates entered the venue through another door and UN staff rushed to move metal detectors to the side entrance as hundreds of people formed queues. This comes after protests on Tuesday night in which Indigenous demonstrators clashed with security and stormed the entrance, resulting in minor injuries. *—PTI*

Syria reopens embassy in London post-Assad era

LONDON, 14 NOV

Syria has reopened its embassy in London after more than a decade's closure, marking a significant step in its reintegration into the international community post-Bashar Assad. Foreign Minister Asaad al-Shibani's visit followed interim President Ahmad al-Sharaa's historic trip to Washington, the first by a Syrian president since 1946. Al-Shibani described his meeting with UK Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper as "successful," expressing gratitude for Britain's early removal of sanctions. He stated, "Relations between Syria and Britain are advanced...," despite lingering concerns about the treatment of minorities amid new government violence. Al-Shibani confirmed about 300 individuals are imprisoned for violence, asserting, "The mistakes or crimes that happened are not accepted by the Syrian government." *—PTI*

PHOTO: X

Chadwick to get Star on Hollywood Walk of Fame

LOS ANGELES, 14 NOV

Chadwick Boseman, famed for his role in 'Black Panther,' will receive a posthumous star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on 20 November. The late actor, who passed away from colon cancer at the age of 43, garnered numerous accolades throughout his career, including a Golden Globe and a Primetime Emmy Award. Director Ryan Coogler will speak at the ceremony, and Boseman's wife, Simone Ledward-Boseman, will accept the honour. "We are deeply honoured to celebrate Chadwick Boseman's extraordinary legacy," stated Ana Martinez of the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce. Boseman's star will be situated at 6904 Hollywood Blvd, a tribute to his impactful legacy on and off-screen. *—PTI*

BBC says sorry to Trump, but won't pay $1B

The news service says it has no plans to re-air the documentary, which wrongly edited his speech

LONDON, 14 NOV

The BBC apologised Thursday to US President Donald Trump over a misleading edit of his 6 January, 2021 speech but said it had not defamed him, rejecting the basis for his $1 billion lawsuit threat.

The BBC said Chair Samir Shah sent a personal letter to the White House apologising for the edit of the speech Trump gave before some of his supporters stormed the US Capitol as Congress was poised to certify the results of President-elect Joe Biden's victory in the 2020 election.

The BBC said there are no plans to rebroadcast the documentary, which had spliced together parts of his speech that came almost an hour apart.

"We accept that our edit unintentionally created the impression that we were showing a single continuous section of the speech, rather than excerpts from different points in the speech, and that this gave the mistaken impression that Trump had made a direct call for violent action," the BBC wrote in a retraction.

Trump's lawyer had sent the BBC a letter demanding an apology and threatened to file a $1 billion lawsuit for the harm the documentary caused him. It had set a Friday deadline for the BBC to respond.

The dispute was sparked by an edition of the BBC's flagship current affairs series 'Panorama,' titled 'Trump: A Second Chance?' broadcast days before the 2024 US presidential election. Director-General Tim Davie, along with news chief Deborah Turness, quit Sunday. *—PTI*

US President Donald Trump's lawyer had sent the BBC a letter demanding an apology and threatened to file a $1B lawsuit **PHOTO: SCREENGRAB**

US labels 4 Left European networks as terrorists

Trump's administration on Thursday designated four European Left-wing groups as terrorist organisations, following through on his vow to crack down on Leftists after the assassination of Conservative activist Charlie Kirk. They are an Italian anarchist front, two Greek networks believed to have planted bombs outside riot police and labour department buildings in Athens, and an anti-fascist group whose members were prosecuted by German authorities for a hammer attack against neo-Nazis in Dresden.

US LAWMAKER SEEKS REMOVAL OF H1B VISA

NEW YORK/ WASHINGTON, 14 NOV

An American lawmaker will be introducing a bill to "completely eliminate" the H1B visa programme and take away the pathway to citizenship that it offers, "forcing" individuals to "return home" when their visa expires.

"My dear fellow Americans, I'm introducing a bill to completely eliminate the H1B visa programme, which has been riddled with fraud and abuse and has been displacing American workers for decades," Congresswoman from Gerogia, Marjorie Taylor Greene said on X on Thursday.

She said that there will only be one exemption in her bill, which will allow for a 10,000 per year cap on visas issued to medical professionals like doctors and nurses who provide life-saving care to Americans.

Greene however noted that even this 10,000 per year cap will be "phased out" over 10 years to "allow us time to build our own pipeline of American doctors and physicians." Greene added that her bill will also "take away the pathway to citizenship, forcing visa holders to return home when their visa expires." *—PTI*

At least 27 people were injured as emergency crews responded to multiple strikes, according to Kyiv military Chief Tymur Tkachenko **PHOTO: X**

Russian strikes kill 4 in Kyiv

KYIV, 14 NOV

Four people were killed after Russia launched a massive combined attack on Kyiv early Friday, triggering fires and sending debris across several districts, Ukrainian authorities said. At least 27 people were injured as emergency crews responded to multiple strikes, according to Kyiv military Chief Tymur Tkachenko.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Russia used around 430 drones and 18 missiles in nationwide attacks, with Kyiv the main target. He described it as "a specially calculated attack to cause as much harm as possible to civilians." Fragments from an Iskander missile also damaged the Azerbaijan Embassy.

15 people were taken to hospital, with one man in critical condition and a pregnant woman. City officials warned of potential power and water outages. Debris caused fires and damage across nearly all major districts, hitting residential buildings, private homes, medical facilities and an educational site.

In wider region, strikes damaged critical infrastructure, injuring at least one civilian. This came as EU pressed Ukraine to intensify anti-corruption efforts while assuring continued support. *—PTI*

2 Pak SC judges quit after Constitutional amendment

ISLAMABAD, 13 NOV

Two Supreme Court judges resigned on Thursday, hours after President Asif Ali Zardari signed the contentious 27th Constitutional Amendment into law, Dawn reported.

At the heart of the amendment is the creation of the Federal Constitutional Court (FCC), which would have superior court judges from all provinces and hear constitutional matters, while Supreme Courts would hear other cases. Supreme Court Justices Mansoor Ali Shah and Athar Minallah handed in their resignations, hours after the contentious 27th Constitutional Amendment was signed into law by President Asif Ali Zardari. Both called on Chief Justice of Pakistan Yahya Afridi to summon a full court meeting and judicial conference to hold a debate on it. One of the judges described it as "a grave assault on the Constitution of Pakistan", saying it "dismantles the Supreme Court of Pakistan, subjugates the judiciary to executive control, and strikes at the very heart of our constitutional democracy".

Meanwhile, Justice Aminuddin Khan was on Friday sworn in as the first Chief Justice of the newly established FCC. *—PTI*

4 Taliban militants held for Islamabad suicide attack

Pakistan on Friday said that security agencies have arrested four militants belonging to the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan for their involvement in a suicide attack outside a court in Islamabad. At least 12 people were killed and 36 injured on Tuesday when a suicide bomber detonated his explosives near the Islamabad District Judicial Complex's entrance in the G-11 area.

South Africa held 150 Palestinians on a plane for 12 hrs

JOHANNESBURG/ KHAN YOUNIS, 14 NOV

South African authorities faced heavy criticism Friday after they held more than 150 Palestinians, including a woman who is nine months pregnant, on a plane for around 12 hours due to complications with their travel documents.

The Palestinians landed on a charter plane at Johannesburg's OR Tambo International Airport on Thursday morning after a stopover in Nairobi, Kenya, South Africa's Border Management Authority said in a statement.

The Palestinian passengers did not have exit stamps from Israeli authorities, did not indicate how long they would be staying in South Africa and had not given local addresses, leading immigration authorities to deny them entry, the statement said.

Gift of the Givers founder Imtiaz Sooliman said it was the second plane carrying Palestinians to land in South Africa in the last two weeks and that the passengers themselves did not know where they were going.

He said both planes were believed to be carrying people from war-torn Gaza.

South Africa has long been a supporter of the Palestinian cause and the treatment of the travellers has sparked anger.

Meanwhile, Israel returned the bodies of 15 Palestinians to Gaza on Friday, officials at Nasser hospital in Khan Younis said, in the latest step to fulfilling the terms of the fragile US-brokered ceasefire agreement. *—PTI*

Xi meets Thai King, pledges closer ties during China visit

BEIJING, 14 NOV

China's leader Xi Jinping and Thai King Maha Vajiralongkorn pledged closer ties on Friday during the first-ever visit to China by a reigning Thai monarch.

Xi and his wife, Peng Liyuan, greeted Vajiralongkorn and his wife, Queen Suthida, at Beijing's vast Great Hall of the People. The visit was intended to mark the 50th anniversary of the countries establishing diplomatic ties.

Xi described China and Thailand as "truly good relatives, good friends and good partners," according to the state-run Xinhua news agency.

Beijing was looking forward to boosting agricultural imports from Thailand and advancing cooperation in fields such as railway development, artificial intelligence and aerospace, Xi said.

Vajiralongkorn described his country's relationship with China as "brotherly cooperation" and expressed his desire to deepen exchanges in various areas.

- Besides a trip to Bhutan in April, the visit to China was Vajiralongkorn's only second official trip abroad since his ascension to the throne, in 2016, signalling a warming of ties with China. as well as attend a state banquet.

The Thai royals were scheduled to visit a Buddhist temple and an aerospace development hub in Beijing, as well as attend a state banquet.

Besides a trip to Bhutan in April, the visit to China was Vajiralongkorn's only second official trip abroad since his ascension to the throne, in 2016, signalling a warming of ties with China. *—PTI*

Chinese President Xi Jinping and Thailand's King Maha Vajiralongkorn review the honour guard during a welcoming ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, on Friday **PHOTO : X**

AFTER DEBRIS HIT SPACESHIP

Stranded Chinese astronauts return to Earth

BEIJING, 14 NOV

Three Chinese astronauts, who aborted their departure home after their spacecraft was hit by debris, returned to earth safely on Friday.

The return capsule of the Shenzhou-21 spaceship, carrying the astronauts Chen Dong, Chen Zhongrui and Wang Jie, touched down at the Dongfeng landing site in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) said.

They were scheduled to return on 5 November, but their journey was postponed at the last minute after "small" space debris hit the station, according to CMSA.

Official media earlier reported that the crew was unable to return on their own spacecraft after tiny cracks were found in the porthole of the Shenzhou-20's return capsule – damage that was likely caused by the debris impact.

The incident, the first since the space station was launched in 2011, sparked concerns here as the station was built to accommodate three astronauts.

The Shenzhou-21 spaceship undocked from the space station combination and the return capsule touched down at 4.40pm Beijing time at the Dongfeng landing site in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, CMSA said.

The astronauts are all in good health. They had spent 204 days in orbit, setting a new record for the longest in-orbit stay among Chinese astronauts, it added.

China built its space station after it was reportedly excluded from the International Space Station (ISS) over concerns that China's space programme is manned by its military, the People's Liberation Army (PLA). *—PTI*

The return was scheduled on 5 November but was postponed at the last minute after small space debris hit the station, CMSA said **PHOTO: X**

- The incident, the first since the space station was launched in 2011, sparked concerns here as the station was built to accommodate three astronauts.

WHO says the fighting has killed at least 40,000 people, and UN says another 12 million have been displaced **PHOTO: UN**

SPL SESSION HELD ON SUDAN KILLINGS

GENEVA, 14 NOV

The UN's top human rights body was holding a one-day special session on Friday to highlight hundreds of killings at a hospital in Sudan's Darfur region and other atrocities committed last month by paramilitary forces fighting the army.

The Human Rights Council was also debating a draft resolution calling on an existing team of independent experts to carry out an urgent inquiry into the killings and other rights violations in the city of el-Fasher by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) paramilitary.

"The atrocities that are unfolding in el-Fasher were foreseen and preventable, but they were not prevented. They constitute the gravest of crimes," said Volker Turk, the UN human rights chief.

Last month the RSF seized el-Fasher, the capital of North Darfur, and rampaged through the Saudi Hospital in the city, killing more than 450 people, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO). WHO says the fighting has killed at least 40,000 people, and UN says another 12 million have been displaced. *—PTI*

QUOTE of THE DAY

Every 50 days we are opening a new airport and that is the kind of success we have achieved in terms of building up airports, the passenger capacity, and many other verticals in aviation

-K RAM MOHAN NAIDU,
Union Civil Aviation Minister

India's data privacy law comes into effect after 2yrs

Rules give citizens control over their digital data, privacy

NEW DELHI, 14 NOV

The government has released the long-awaited Digital Personal Data Protection Rules 2025 on Friday, which will be implemented in phases spread over 12 to 18 months.

The rules aim to give citizens control over their data, allow them to check for misuse, and protect their privacy in the online space.

Some parts of the rules will be implemented immediately, while provisions like registration and obligations of consent managers, notice from data fiduciaries to individuals for processing their data and some other major norms related to processing of personal data etc, will be implemented over a period of 12-18 months.

The rules are expected to help citizens avoid spam calls and unauthorised access to their personal data, video, and voice via any digital means.

Under the rules a Data Protection Board will be constituted to levy penalties based on the nature of the breach as listed in the DPDP Act 2023.

The DPDP Act 2023 has provisions to impose penalties of

up to Rs 250 per breach on data fiduciaries. However, it has kept a graded penalty system to protect small businesses.

The rules came into force eight years after the Supreme Court held that the Right to Privacy is a fundamental right. The citizens are also expected not to suppress any information about themselves for any government-issued IDs or documents, refrain from filing false complaints, and provide verifiable information when requesting data correction or deletion.

The provisions of DPDP Rules exempts rights of citizen in case of enforcing legal rights, court orders, prosecution of any offence, an individual is overseas and signed any contract or given consent to a foreign entity, ascertaining the financial information of any person who has defaulted in payment due and in cases where the centre exempts certain data fiduciaries. *—PTI*

TO CREATE 25,000 JOBS

Adani Group to invest Rs 63K cr in Assam power project

NEW DELHI, 14 NOV

The Adani Group will invest about Rs 63,000 crore in Assam to build major power projects, including the Northeast's largest private coal-fired plant, and new pumped-storage facilities.

The conglomerate said its energy companies have received Letters of Award from the state government for two large power projects in Assam.

Adani Power Ltd will invest roughly Rs 48,000 crore to build a 3,200 MW greenfield ultra-super-critical thermal plant under the design, build, finance, own and operate (DBFOO) model.

The company won the project with a tariff bid of Rs 6.30 per kWh (per unit) and has secured coal linkage under the Centre's SHAKTI policy.

The plant will be commissioned in phases from December 2030 and will generate 20,000–25,000 jobs during construction and about 3,500 in operations.

Adani Green Energy Ltd will invest around Rs 15,000 crore in two pumped storage projects (PSPs) with a combined capacity of 2,700 MW. It has also received an LoA for 500 MW of storage capacity that will be served through these PSPs. The group said total employment during the project phase across both investments would be about 30,000.

Adani said the projects would boost Assam's energy security, industrial growth and grid resilience. The thermal project has approvals from the Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission, and a power supply agreement with APDCL is expected to follow. Meanwhile, the conglomerate will invest over Rs 1 lakh crore across sectors like ports, cement, data centres and energy in Andhra Pradesh. This is over and above the Rs 40,000 crore already invested. *—PTI*

Gold, silver lose momentum on weak global cues

NEW DELHI, 14 NOV

Gold prices plunged by Rs 1,500 to Rs 1,29,400 per 10 grams in Delhi on Friday tracking weak global trends after comments from Federal Reserve officials indicating absence of fresh economic data could delay rate cuts. The precious metal of 99.5 per cent purity declined by Rs 1,500 to Rs 1,28,800 per 10 grams. Silver prices tumbled by Rs 4,200 to Rs 1,64,800 per kilogram.*—PTI*

India International Trade Fair begins in Delhi

NEW DELHI, 14 NOV

Delhi Police have significantly increased security measures around Pragati Maidan as the India International Trade Fair commences today. This heightened security follows a tragic explosion near the Red Fort on Monday, which resulted in 13 fatalities and over 20 injuries. The 14-day event, running from 14 to 27 November, is expected to attract nearly 60,000 visitors daily, necessitating rigorous security protocols, including multi-layered checks and traffic restrictions. A senior police official stated, "The force is leaving no stone unturned to keep the city secure in the aftermath of the explosion." Traffic diversions and parking restrictions will be in place, with commuters encouraged to use public transport.*—PTI*

Rupee falls 3 paise to close at 88.73 against US dollar

NEW DELHI, 14 NOV

The rupee fell three paise to close at 88.73 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday, weighed down by the American currency's strength and rising crude oil prices. A rebound in domestic equities following a sweeping mandate for the ruling alliance in the Bihar polls supported the rupee at lower levels. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 88.70 against the US dollar. The domestic unit winessed an intra-day low of 88.75 against the greenback. The dollar index was trading 0.12 per cent higher.*—PTI*

Jubliant FoodWorks jump 9% with PAT surge

NEW DELHI, 14 NOV

Jubilant FoodWorks shares surged nearly 9% on Friday and hit their day's high of Rs 622.95 on the NSE after the Domino's pizza owner served piping hot September quarter earnings to investors, recording a 190% year-on-year jump. The profit after tax (PAT) in Q2 stood at Rs 186 crore. The revenue from operations stood at Rs 2,340.15 crore in the quarter. The PAT jumped 103% compared to Rs 92 crore in Q1FY26, while the topline increased by 3.5% on a quarter-on-quarter basis. The operational Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation, and Amortisation grew 20% to Rs 476 crore.*—PTI*

Anil Ambani skips summon, gets fresh ED notice in FEMA case

NEW DELHI, 14 NOV

Anil Ambani, chairman of the Reliance Group, has failed to appear before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) following a summons related to a Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) case.

The ED has now issued a new notice for him to appear on 17 November. Sources state that the agency rejected Ambani's proposal to give his statement virtually.

A spokesperson for the 66-year-old businessman stated that he has assured the ED of "full cooperation" in the investigation, which revolves around the Jaipur-Reengus highway project.

The ED previously attached assets worth Rs 7,500 crore

linked to Ambani under money laundering laws, alleging that Rs 40 crore may have been siphoned from the project via Surat-based shell companies to Dubai.

"This matter is 15 years old... concerning issues associated with a road contractor," the spokesperson noted. Although Ambani is not part of Reliance Infrastructure's Board, he was a non-executive director until March 2022. *—PTI*

DRIVEN BY GST CUTS

WPI inflation falls to 27-month low of (-) 1.21 %

NEW DELHI, 14 NOV

Wholesale price inflation (WPI) fell to a 27-month low of (-) 1.21 per cent in October, led by a sharp deflation in food items like pulses and vegetables, and lower prices of fuel and manufactured items, government data showed.

WPI-based inflation was 0.13 per cent in September and 2.75 per cent in October, 2024.

Deflation in food articles was 8.31 per cent in October, compared to 5.22 per cent in September, with onion, potato, vegetables and pulses seeing a decline in prices.

In the case of manufactured products, inflation eased to

1.54 per cent, from 2.33 per cent in September. Fuel and power witnessed a deflation of 2.55 per cent, against 2.58 per cent in September.

The fall in WPI inflation is on expected lines after the rates of goods and services tax (GST) were slashed effective September 22.

GST rates on daily use mass consumption items were cut as part of the tax rate rationalisation under which the four-tier tax structure was brought down to just 2 slabs of 5 and 18 per cent.

Retail inflation was at an all-time low of 0.25 per cent in October *—PTI*

Andhra, S'pore sign deal on urban dvpt, flight services

VISAKHAPATNAM, 14 NOV

Andhra Pradesh and Singapore governments on Friday signed a deal on urban governance, sustainable development, and flight services between Vijayawada and the city-state at the 30th CII Partnership Summit in Visakhapatnam.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu said Singapore's government and companies operate on innovative ideas, and that Andhra Pradesh is keen to collaborate with such entities.

"Singapore and Andhra Pradesh governments sealed the deal in the presence of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Singapore Home Minister Shanmugam," a government statement said. Speaking at the memorandum of understanding exchange ceremony, the Chief Minister said strong public policies had enabled Singapore's rapid development.

He said the Southeast Asian country helped him with a plan to develop the greenfield capital city of Amaravati, which faced issues but is now being reconstructed.

Union Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu said tri-weekly flights would operate between Vijayawada and Singapore, adding that services were already operational between Singapore and Visakhapatnam. A joint implementation committee would oversee the execution of the project. *—PTI*

Sensex, Nifty settle with gains for 4th day amid see-saw trade

MUMBAI, 14 NOV

Stock market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty sustained their positive momentum for the fourth consecutive day and settled with modest gains on Friday, aided by a buying rush in FMCG, banking and telecom sector shares. The 30-share BSE Sensex benchmark began the trade on a negative note by declining 449.35 points, or 0.53 per cent to 84,029.32.

The NSE Nifty started the day

off lower by 138.35 points or 0.53 per cent to 25,740.80.

The BSE Sensex ended 84.11 points, or 0.10 per cent, higher at 84,562.78, while the NSE Nifty went up 30.90 points, or 0.12 per cent, to settle at 25,910.05.

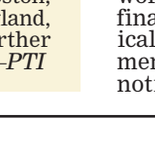
Eternal, Bharat Electronics Ltd, Trent, Axis Bank, State Bank of India, Bajaj Finance, Sun Pharmaceuticals, Asian Paints, Adani Ports, Hindustan Unilever, Reliance Industries, ITC, PowerGrid, Tata Motors Ltd's Commercial Vehicles business, and Bajaj Finserv gained, while Infosys, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles, Tata Steel and ICICI Bank were the laggards.*—PTI*

GOOGLE OVERHAULS AD BIZ POST €2B FINE

BRUSSEL, 14 NOV

Google has announced significant changes to its advertising services, responding to a EUR 2.95-billion antitrust fine imposed by the European Commission and the initiation of a new digital competition probe.

A Google spokesperson stated, "Our proposal fully addresses the decision without a disruptive break-up that would harm the thousands of European publishers and advertisers who use Google tools to grow their business." Despite these changes, Google plans to appeal the ruling.



The modifications include allowing publishers to set varied minimum prices for different bidders on Google Ad Manager and enhancing the interoperability of its tools.

The European Commission confirmed it would analyse Google's commitments to determine whether they adequately address concerns about self-preferencing practices.

Google faces increased scrutiny in the US on whether it is unfairly pushing certain news outlets down in search results. It is involved in legal challenges as regards its advertising practices*—PTI*

'REGULATORS INFORMED ABOUT JLR DATA LEAKS'

NEW DELHI,14 NOV

Tata Motors-owned Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) has informed regulators about the possibility of customer data leak due to the cyber attack, which had crippled its operations, Tata Motors Group CFO PB Balaji said on Friday.

The British luxury carmaker, which suffered the attack that started in August this year, forcing it to halt its global manufacturing operations across pants, has also revised its FY26 guidance with EBIT margin in the range of 0-2 per cent and free cash outflow of 2.2 billion to 2.5 billion pounds.

An investigation underway and the company will take appropriate steps as per the laws of the land.

production is now returning to normal levels.The production downtime was used to accelerate the development and testing work for electrification at JLR facilities. These activities are part of JLR's previously announced commitment to invest 18 billion pounds over five years from FY24. It restated systems used to wholesale vehicles. *—PTI*

USED IN FAMOUS TEMPLES

Gujarat's Ambaji white marble gets GI tag

BANASHANTHA, 14 NOV

Marble from Gujarat's holy pilgrimage site and Shaktipeeth, Ambaji, has received the geographicali-Indication (GI) tag from the Centre for high-quality white stone extracted from its soil, an official said on Friday.

The Geographical Indications Registry, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has registered a tag under the name of Ambaji Marbles Quarry and Factory Association, Ambaji, in Banaskantha district.

A GI tag is a status given to a product that has a unique quality, or characteristic due to its specific geographical

origin.

Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel hailed the GI tag for Ambaji marble.

With the GI tag, the demand for Ambaji marble will increase in national and international markets, which will boost local industries and encourage artisans as well, Patel maintained.

Ambaji-based white marble industrialist Kiranbhai Trivedi said, a GI tag is only given to products that are of high quality.

The marble mines in Ambaji are 1,200-1,500 years old when Dilwara Jain Temple was constructed (in Mount Abu in adjoining Rajasthan), he said.

He said the majestic temple stands as living proof of the exceptional quality of Ambaji marble.

Not only in Gujarat, but this white marble has been used for constructing various temples abroad in Miami, Los Angeles, Boston, New Zealand, and England, the businessman further pointed out. *—PTI*

Anthropic warns of AI driven hacking campaign

WASHINGTON, 14 NOV

A team of researchers has uncovered what they say is the first reported use of artificial intelligence to direct a hacking campaign in a largely automated fashion.

The AI company Anthropic disrupted a cyber operation that its researchers linked to the Chinese government.

What is concerning is the degree to which AI was able to automate some of the work.

The operation was modest in scope and only targeted about 30 individuals who worked at tech companies, financial institutions, chemical companies and government agencies. Anthropic noticed the operation in September and took steps to shut it down and notify the affected parties.

The hackers only "succeeded in a small number of cases," according to Anthropic, which noted AI systems are being used in work and leisure, it can also be weaponised by hacking groups working for foreign adversaries.

A spokesperson for China's embassy in Washington did not immediately return a message seeking comment on the report.

Microsoft warned earlier this year that foreign adversaries were increasingly embracing AI to make their cyber campaigns more efficient and less labour-intensive. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

India's Sumit Nagal gets Chinese visa

CHENGDU, 14 NOV

India's top-ranked male tennis player Sumit Nagal has finally received his visa to travel to China for the Australian Open Playoff, scheduled to begin on November 24 in Chengdu.

"A big thank you to @Media_SAI, @MEAIndia, @China_Amb_India, and @ChinaSpox_India for their prompt help in helping me secure the visa in time," he posted on 'X' late on Thursday night. The 27-year-old from Jhajjar, Haryana, had on Tuesday sought urgent intervention from the Chinese Embassy after his visa application was rejected without any explanation. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian later said that China issues visas to athletes from all countries, including India, in accordance with laws and regulations.—*PTI*

WFI lifts suspension on Aman, Neha

NEW DELHI, 14 NOV

The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) on Friday lifted the suspensions of Olympic medallist Aman Sehrawat and junior grappler Neha Sangwan, who were barred for turning up overweight at major international championships earlier this year. The development means that both wrestlers will be able to enter the auction for the upcoming edition of the Pro Wrestling League (PWL).

Paris Games bronze winner Aman was suspended for being overweight during the World Championships in Zagreb, Croatia, in September, while Neha faced action after her disqualification from the Junior Worlds in Samokov, Bulgaria, in August. Both wrestlers were served show-cause notices — Aman on September 22 and Neha on August 25 — and their replies were received on September 28 and September 1,8, respectively. The coaches appointed for the Zagreb event were also issued notices.—*PTI*

Rathika Seelan wins Bondi Open squash title

SYDNEY, 14 NOV

Top seed Rathika Suthanthira Seelan clinched the second PSA title of her career after defeating fourth seed Kiwi Maiden-Lee Coe 3-0 in the Bondi Open final in Sydney on Friday. Rathika notched up an 11-7, 11-6, 11-7 win to lift the title without dropping a game. It was the 24-year-old Tamil Nadu player's third Challenger final of the year, and the second this week following a runner-up finish in the NSW Open. —*PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Tim Southee joins KKR as bowling coach

KOLKATA, 14 NOV

Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) on Friday announced the appointment of New Zealand cricket legend Tim Southee as the team's bowling coach for the upcoming season of the Indian Premier League (IPL). Southee represented his country in 107 Test matches, 161 ODIs, and 126 T20 Internationals, taking 776 wickets. Southee was a part of the Kolkata Knight Riders squad (2021, 2022, 2023) in the IPL during his playing career. "KKR has always felt like home to me, and it's an honour to return in this new role. The franchise has an incredible culture, passionate fans, and a great group of players.—*PTI*

Bumrah blows SA with a stunning five-wicket haul

I try to take care of my body: Bumrah brushes aside fitness talk

KOLKATA, 14 NOV

Jasprit Bumrah turned a rare four-spinner gamble into his personal stage, producing a mesmerising exhibition of seam, swing and control as India skittled out South Africa for 159 on the opening day of the first Test, here Friday.

On a surface that drew pre-match scrutiny for its dry look, prompting India to field four spinners for the first time since 2012, it was India's pace star who made the ball talk the loudest, returning a superb 14-2-27-5, his 16 five-wicket hauls in 96 innings.

Bumrah produced a masterclass across little over two sessions, as South Africa crashed from a commanding 57 for no loss in 10 overs to lose all 10 wickets for just 102 runs in the next 45 overs, with their innings lasting just four hours and 13 minutes after opting to bat.

It's South Africa's second-lowest total after a fifty-plus opening stand in men's Tests since their readmission. The lowest is 130 in their second innings in the 2018 Cape Town Test, also against India, after a 52-run opening stand.

India ended the day at 37 for one in 20 overs, with a resolute KL Rahul (13 batting from 59 balls) and Washington Sundar (six batting; 38 balls) steady at the crease after Yashasvi Jaiswal (12) dragged Marco Jansen onto his stumps while playing close to his body.

The duo looked in no hurry on a pitch offering spice and variable bounce as they cut the deficit to 122 runs in front of a sizeable Eden crowd of 36,000-plus.

Back to his incisive best, **Jasprit Bumrah** on Friday brushed aside the chatter around his workload management, insisting that he "tries to take care of his body" and said those "questions were not my questions".There has been intense scrutiny over Bumrah in "picking" matches for his workload management post England summer test series.

He could not bowl in the Sydney Test against Australia when he was sidelined from bowling on the final day due to a back spasm, then in England, he was rested for two Tests, the second and fifth that India won, fuelling critics questioning his commitment.

"I try to give my best in whichever format I play. These questions are not my questions; I will not answer them. I try to play as much as I can. I try to take care of my body," Bumrah said at the press conference.

India's Mohammed Siraj celebrates with teammate Dhruv Jurel after taking the wicket of South Africa's Kyle Verreynne PHOTO: PTI

Simon Harmer's stumps were sent cartwheeled, and three balls later, Keshav Maharaj was pinned plumb in front.

Kuldeep Yadav (2/29) chipped in with the key wicket of skipper Temba Bavuma, snared smartly at leg slip by Dhruv Jurel, and later removed a compact-looking Wiaan Mulder (24).

Brief Scores:
South Africa 1st innings 159 all out in 55 overs (Wiaan Mulder 24 , Tony de Zorzi 24; Jasprit Bumrah 5/27).

India 1st innings: 37 for one in 20 overs (KL Rahul 13 not out; Marco Jansen 1/11) —*PTI*

CHESS WORLD CUP 2025

Erigaisi, Harikrishna draw opening game of Round Five

PANAJI, 14 NOV

Grandmaster P Harikrishna started his fifth round with a relatively easy draw against Jose Eduardo Martinez Alcantara, while Arjun Erigaisi signed peace with a solid Levon Aronian at the FIDE World Cup here on Friday.

Up against someone who has defied odds to be in the fifth round, Harikrishna knew that Jose Martinez could be a force to reckon with.However, the immense experience of the Indian came to the fore as he chose the Two Knights variation as black against the Italian opening of the Peruvian-Mexican Grandmaster.

Martinez had two upset victories in the last two matches against Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan and Alexey Sarana of Serbia, but for once, he did not get much with his white pieces against India, who has himself been in top form here with very clean games thus far.

The middle game featured routine manoeuvres with Martinez having an extra pawn at the cost of a fractured pawn structure, and his choice of going for a queen exchange in the middle game was an indication enough that he had not found his best trait in this round.If there is one thing that does not bother Harikrishna much, it's the endgame.

The Indian is known for his expertise in this department of the game, and despite being a pawn less, had no problems whatsoever in getting a draw in 41 moves. Erigaisi tried his best to put a lot of pressure on Aronian with his white pieces, but the Armenian-turned-American was always on his guard. —*PTI*

ATP FINALS

Sinner beats Shelton to perfect record in group stage

LONDON, 14 NOV

Jannik Sinner comfortably beat Ben Shelton 6-3, 7-6 (7/3) on Friday to complete a perfect group stage in his ATP Finals title defence.

Italian Sinner took one hour and 35 minutes to see off spirited Shelton, who bowed out of his debut Finals in Turin without a win from his three matches in the Bjorn Borg Group.

Sinner will face Alex de Minaur in the first semifinal on Saturday afternoon, when he will be the favourite to reach his third final in as many years at the season-ending tournament.

The 24-year-old hasn't dropped a set at the Finals since losing the 2023 final to Novak Djokovic, and he hasn't even had to play his best tennis to rattle off wins against three of the best players on the planet.

Sinner started Friday's match by immediately breaking Shelton's serve and from there kept up the pressure without ever giving Shelton, the world number five, any chance of victory.

Sinner is on course for yet another showdown against Carlos Alcaraz, who, before Friday's match, was handed the award for securing the year-end top spot in the men's rankings. —*PTI*

Jannik Sinner PHOTO: PTI

Suryavanshi's 144 powers India A to 148-run win over UAE

DOHA, 14 NOV

Young opener Vaibhav Suryavanshi smashed a blistering joint-second-fastest T20 hundred by an Indian batter, propelling India A to a thumping 148-run win over the United Arab Emirates in the Asia Cup Rising Stars here on Friday.

Suryavanshi made 144 off 42 balls (11x4s, 15x6s) and skipper Jitesh Sharma scored 83 off 32 balls as India piled up a massive 297 for 4 in 20 overs. UAE were never in contention and ended up at 149/7, with left-arm pacer Gurjapneet Singh (3/18) leading India's bowling effort.

UAE middle-order batter Shoaib Khan made a 41-ball 63 to offer a token of resistance. But Suryavanshi was the brightest star in the desert night, bringing up his hundred in just 32 balls to equal Rishabh Pant's mark made for Delhi against Himachal Pradesh in 2018.

The 14-year-old brought up his century with a nicely timed four off pacer Muhammad Arfan in the 10th over.Suryavanshi had a silent partner in Naman Dhir (34), and the second wicket pair added 168 runs in a little over 10 overs as runs flowed in at 16 per over.

Suryavanshi was cruising at a strike rate of 348 at that time, and eventually he fell to off-spinner Mohammed Farazuddin, skying a catch to Ahmed Tariq in the deep.India were 195 for three in 12.3 overs then.

Chasing 298 was never in the capacity of the UAE batters, and their genuine hope was just to keep the margin of defeat as low as possible.But even that was tough against a quality Indian attack that contained first-class regulars. —*PTI*

Vaibhav Suryavanshi PHOTO: PTI

Abrar, Babar fashion series win for Pakistan vs Sri Lanka

RAWALPINDI, 14 NOV

Pakistan clinched the three-match ODI series with an eight-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the second ODI in Rawalpindi.

The game, originally scheduled for Thursday, was postponed by a day following security concerns. After restricting the visitors to 288, Pakistan hunted the total down comfortably following a century from Babar Azam and a fifty from Fakhar Zaman.Asked to bat first, Sri Lanka's openers laid a solid foundation and put on a 51-run stand. While both batters looked good at the crease, their partnership came to an abrupt end after Pathum Nissanka was run out attempting a risky third run in the 10th over. —*PTI*

Japan Masters: Sen cruises into semifinals

Kumamoto, 14 Nov

Top Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen registered an upset straight-game win over former world champion Loh Kean Yew of Singapore to storm into the semifinals of the USD 475,000 Kumamoto Masters Japan here on Friday. Commonwealth Games champion Sen, seeded seventh, produced a superlative performance to outclass world No. 9 Loh 21-13 21-17 in 40 minutes, extending his dominance over the Singaporean with a seventh win in 10 career meetings. The world No. 15, who finished runner-up at the Hong Kong Open in September, will next face Japan's sixth seed and world No. 13 Kenta Nishimoto.

Coming in with a 6-3 head-to-head lead, Sen displayed impressive all-around control to dismantle Loh, who has been struggling for some time. —PTI

Asian Archery C'ship: Ankita, Dhiraj win gold

DHAKA, 14 NOV

Ankita Bhakat capped a sensational day, stunning Paris Olympics silver-medallist Nam Suhyeon of South Korea 7-3 while Dhiraj Bommadevara also won his final as India clinched gold medals in both men's and women's events at the Asian Archery Championship here on Friday.

Dhiraj defeated compatriot Rahul 6-2 in the final to make it 1-2 for India.Ankita had earlier knocked out her longtime senior teammate, former world No. 1 Deepika, in the semifinals.

Locked at 5-5, both archers shot a nine in the shoot-off, but Ankita's arrow was closer to the centre, sending her into the title clash.Ankita began the final in commanding fashion, firing two 10s to take the opening set 29-27. The second set ended in a scrappy 27-27 draw as both archers faltered. Ankita slipped to an 8 while Nam dropped to a 7.

Nam levelled the match by claiming the third set 28-26, with Ankita unable to find a single 10.

But the Indian hit back brilliantly in the fourth, nailing two 10s in a superb 29-28 effort to lead 5-3. —*PTI*

HOJGAARD LEADS WORLD TOUR C'SHIP WITH MCILROY

Nicolai Hojgaard PHOTO: PTI

DUBAI, 14 NOV

Nicolai Hojgaard moved into position to win the season-ending World Tour Championship for a second time by taking a three-stroke lead on Friday, though a slew of Europe's Ryder Cup stars were well placed to pounce.

The chasing pack included Rory McIlroy, whose brilliant short game salvaged a 69 in the second round that kept him on track to capture a fourth straight year-long Race to Dubai title for being Europe's No. 1 player. McIlroy was tied for second place in a five-man group that included Justin Rose (67) and Shane Lowry (67). Fellow Ryder Cuppers Robert MacIntyre (67) and Tommy Fleetwood (71) were a further stroke back. —*PTI*

Slovenia takes a 2-0 lead over Netherlands

BENGALURU, 14 NOV

Tamara Zidansek and Kaja Juan produced resilient tennis to outsmart fancied Netherlands, giving Slovenia an unassailable 2-0 lead in the Billie Jean King Cup Group G playoff here on Friday.

Zidansek defeated Arantaxa Rus 6-1, 7-6 (6) while Juan had to dig deep against world No. 89 Suzan Lamens, before prevailing 7-6 (5) 4-6 6-3 in two hours and 34 minutes. The second match between Lamens and Juan lived up to the billing, as the two protagonists exhibited high-class defence, shot-making, and ball retrieving. —*PTI*

WORLD CUP BAN FOR RED CARD

Ronaldo faces 3-week wait for FIFA's verdict

GENEVA, 14 NOV

Cristiano Ronaldo likely faces a three-week wait to discover the length of his FIFA ban ahead of the 2026 World Cup.

The Portugal superstar could be suspended for two or three games for the red card he was shown Thursday for striking Ireland defender Dara O'Shea with an elbow during a 2-0 loss in Dublin.

FIFA has taken three weeks after the rounds of the 2026 World Cup qualifying games to publish a global list of disciplinary verdicts, including for red cards and incidents such as crowd disorder.

Now, however, FIFA is under less time pressure to process cases with no World Cup playoff games until March, but there is intense interest in the Ronaldo outcome.

FIFA declined on Friday to suggest a timetable for the case.

A one-game ban is mandatory and will be served on Sunday when group leader Portugal hosts last-place Armenia. A win will send Ronaldo's team to the finals in the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

Cristiano Ronaldo PHOTO: PTI

FIFA rules

FIFA disciplinary rules demand a ban of "at least two matches for serious foul play" or "at least three matches for violent conduct."

Those extra games beyond the mandatory sanction must be served in competition, at the World Cup — if Portugal qualifies Sunday as expected — and not in pre-tournament exhibitions.

Ronaldo spun round and swung his right elbow into O'Shea's back as they waited for the ball to be crossed around the hour mark at Aviva Stadium, with Ireland holding a surprise 2-0 lead.

The referee at first showed a yellow card, but minutes later upgraded it to red after a video review at the field-side monitor. —*PTI*

Esha Singh wins bronze in women's 25m pistol event

CAIRO, 14 NOV

Former Asian, Mixed Team, and Junior World champion Esha Singh added another feather in her decorated cap, nailing a maiden individual world championship medal after claiming bronze in the women's 25m pistol Olympic event at the Olympic Shooting range in Cairo on Friday.

The Indian shot a score of 30 in the final, to finish behind China's Yao Qianxun (silver, score: 38) and Korea's reigning Olympic Champion Yang Jiin (gold, score: 40). —*PTI*